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THURSDAY, JULY 3RD, 2014

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Autism hero wins award
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'It's disrespectful' FUNERAL DIRECTOR 'DISGUSTED' AFTER DISRUPTION

A local funeral director is disgusted that someone deliberately disrupted the arrangements for a funeral in Barry on Friday, June 27, *writes TIM CHAPMAN.*

Lyndsay Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service told The GEM: "I'm disappointed and upset that someone could have done this."

Husband and wife team Lyndsay and Nicki have recently started to use the United Reform Church on Windsor Road for funeral services.

Lyndsay said: "We had a funeral planned for Friday, so on the Thursday evening at 8pm I put out 'funeral cones' in front of the church.

"The purpose is to ensure that the family and cortege can arrive outside the church and follow into the chapel.

"The last thing we want is for families to arrive at the church and not be ableto park and have to drive round looking for somewhere. People are under emotional pressure and that is the last thing they need.

"On the Friday morning, I arrived to find the cones had been stolen. I was non-plussed that someone could do this."

(*Continued on page 7*)

Archbishop's visit to St Helen's School

Picture by JOHN O'BEIRNE

St Helen's School welcomed a special visitor, Archbishop George Stack, to their assembly and new garden. Pupils Luke Bosley and Ruby Ferguson showed him round. (See next week for a report and more images of the day).

Red Arrows

THE world's top aerial display team, the Red Arrows are heading to Barry.

They will provide the highlight of this year's Barry Wartime Weekend next month.

Event organiser Ade Pitman said: "The Barry Tourist Railway team have done a fantastic job in securing the Red Arrows for this year's annual event."

Barry Wartime Weekend will take place on August 30-31.

To read the full story, please turn to page 4.

Watch handed in

A watch was handed in to the customer services department at Morrisons supermarket at the Waterfront, Barry, this week. Contact the store for further details.

Tell us your stories of First World War

THE centenary of the start of the First World War will be commemorated soon, and The GEM is keen to hear from readers who have family connections or have interesting stories relating to it.

Welsh-born Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, coined the unforgettable phrase 'war to end all wars' when he said in 1918: "I hope we may say that thus, this fateful morning, came to an end all wars."

This was shattered when the world was plunged into the Second World War, but it reflected the hope that the millions who had died did not die in vain.

There was barely a family in the land untouched by the carnage and its consequences still live with us today.

• Please send your contributions to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. ***Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number***. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

NEXT STEP, COLWINSTON NEW TOWN?

THE proposed development of 62 houses in Colwinston could not have chosen a more illogical site.

Parts of Colwinston are built on a steep sided valley that funnels water down from the A48 to St Michaels Church at the bottom of the village.

The proposed development will build where a 'winterbourne' stream has over the past 15 years caused regular autumn and winter flooding to my land and on several occasions, sent water over my garden and down Beech Park.

The change from good agricultural land, that acts in part as a sponge absorbing water, to streets, houses and tarmac drives will greatly increase the risk, duration and severity of flooding despite what ever promises are made to the contrary.

If there is any failure to the proposed 'infiltration basin' to the rear of Beech Park, foul water will flow through my property and effect houses lower down the village.

Why build on such an illogical site with all its inherent problems and costs to rectify?

Am I missing something – or is it now acceptable to build in the most difficult, the most controversial site possible?

Whatever happened to Llandow – or are we to have 'Colwinston new town'?

R S Northmore, Colwinston.

'Adopted land now rightly reclaimed'

AS a resident of The Pastures, I feel I have to reply to Mrs Price's comments in last week's GEM concerning the cemetery land at Barry.

Several years ago, and at great expense, the council put a long-needed footpath from The Buttrills Field to Cemetery Lane. This footpath was directly adjacent to the cemetery and was in between the land owned by Pastures residents and the cemetery fences.

This left a gap of approx 10 metres of 'unclaimed land', which was a natural break between The Pastures and the cemetery.

For a few years, this path was enjoyed by dog walkers (such as myself) and many local residents both young and old.

During this time, many of the residents decided that this abandoned land was theirs and a whole menagerie of summerhouses, sheds and patios mysteriously appeared on the abandoned land.

A padlock was subsequently placed on a gate, which remained closed for a few years, and the surrounding land that has not been occupied has become overgrown.

The council has rightfully reclaimed its land that was 'adopted' by many residents.

Name and address supplied.

Commonsense!

I AM in full support of the proposal to develop public open space at Cemetery Approach as a Centenary Field, as described in last week's GEM.

Surprisingly, cabinet members shown in a photo shot were part of a coalition in 2007/8, which was determined to sell this open space to a developer.

It is encouraging to see that commonsense has prevailed and that the leisure and amenity aspirations of the public have prevailed.

Coun Philip Clarke, Barry.

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AFTER TRIBUTES TO TROOPS ON ARMED FORCES DAY...

Let's not forget the Veterans

LAST WEEK, the nation gathered for Armed Forces Day – to say thank you for the dedication of those bravely serving in the Armed Forces.

In November, we gather again – this time in thankful memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Yet one significant group may be overlooked – the Veterans who returned after service to protect our national interests – which often required great personal mental or physical sacrifice. They, too, deserve our recognition and thanks.

At Combat Stress, the Veterans' mental health charity, we remember, support and treat the Veterans of the Falklands War, Bosnia, the first Gulf War, and those who have served so valiantly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some will forever live with the mental or physical wounds of their service.

So let us take a moment to thank those who have done their duty and returned home. Particularly those who, in their heads, are still fighting to return to normality – we salute you.

Our 24-hour helpline is available to Veterans, service personnel, and families on 0800 138 1619.

Andrew Cameron,
Chief Executive, Combat Stress.

Fundraiser's 'thank you'

I WOULD like to thank all those who have supported my fundraising efforts to help get me to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan next year.

Staff and customers at Costa Coffee have been very generous in their support during my time there, so many thanks.

I am continuing to raise money through gardening, grass cutting, garage clearances, and holiday cat feeding.

If you are looking for someone to do any of these things, please contact me on 01446 773264 or 07580500980.

Hugh Exley, Cowbridge.

ACCURATE OR INACCURATE?

IT was interesting to read the recent letter from Angela Price concerning Barry Cemetery, following your previous week's story on protests by residents of The Pastures.

The town clerk's response was also interesting, inasmuch as Mrs Price appears to be contradicting much of what Mr Lewis had said.

Each of them appears to be accusing the other of being inaccurate – so it seems to me that we are all entitled to a more informative comment from the town clerk than the one he gave you when you contacted him.

Jim Davies, Barry.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS
Email the Editor at:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'Leave it to the Welsh Assembly!'

ONCE again, Mr Alun Cairns MP uses his column in The GEM to attack the Welsh Government on a policy area for which he has no responsibility – education being his latest hobby horse.

I don't object to the occasional bit of political knockabout, but, once in a while, it would be good if Mr Cairns could report back on Westminster issues for which he has a political mandate.

The job of opposition in the Assembly rests with the Welsh Conservative group.

They may be a laughing stock, but that is their job and Mr Cairns should leave them to it.

Jeff Evans, Llantwit Major.

Financial lesson for NHS waste

THERE have been a number of letters recently warning of the horrors of a privatised NHS. Forget that doctors, dentists, chemists and others are private enterprises making a profit from the NHS; did your readers see a recent *Daily Mail* article about changes at a hospital, written by a consultant working there?

He says the NHS is a sluggish bureaucracy, unresponsive, uncoordinated and wasteful. He has cut waste in buying basic things like rubber gloves and non-branded drugs, and by rationalising procedures; eg seven hip and knee operations are done per day, instead of the average four, and costs are down 50 per cent. The stay for broken hips is two weeks, previously three.

One letter bemoans the Government is no longer controlling hospitals, although it no longer controls telephones, a car maker or steel either. But the point is that these changes were made by a private partnership (the consultant is a partner).

This hospital was "in dire financial straits" when the partnership took it over, but savings have averaged 7 per cent, he says, against the 4 per cent Government target.

He says this was done by removing a top heavy bureaucracy, copying industrial production line procedures and giving power and responsibility to clinical staff.

As a bonus, apparently the NHS owns large amounts of unused land. Presumably, it is not arable, so might make a good substitute for sites such as Darren Farm.

And the services of this ('privatised') hospital are still free at the point of delivery.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

'Centenary Field a great idea!'

WHAT a great idea to redevelop the land at Cemetery Approach, Barry, as a Centenary Field – I wish both councils every success in completing this project.

Public engagement with the scheme would be extremely beneficial as people will feel a greater sense of ownership.

Funding bodies are more attracted to proposals that have wide-based public support and commitment, and it would give children and organisations an opportunity to participate.

The current cabinet will be well aware of the benefits to be gained from public engagement, following a report they considered in February.

The background to the report explained that: *"Public engagement is the process by which organisations invite citizens to participate in deliberation, dialogue and action in relation to issues that they care about. When done well, it allows our residents to have a meaningful say in the decisions that affect them and provides us with a wealth of information that enables us to take important decisions*."

The public have overwhelmingly demonstrated how much they care about Cemetery Approach, and this is a great opportunity for them to have a meaningful say.

Dennis Harkus, Barry,
Save Cemetery Approach Action Group/ FocusBARRY supporter.

'MP has a right to free speech'

I READ with dismay, the letter from Marc Delaney (The GEM, June 26); as far as I know, Alun Cairns was born in Wales, lives in Wales and represents a Welsh constituency.

Yet Mr Delaney wishes to deny him freedom of speech because, he is, wait for it, a Tory MP.

I had thought that MPs were elected to represent their electorate. Following this twisted 'logic', only MEPs would be allowed to comment on Europe.

Mr Delaney, who attacks Cairns for drawing attention to the failings of the NHS in Wales, then continues with a diatribe against the NHS in England.

Surely, if Cairns cannot comment on Wales, then the writer cannot comment on England?

We know for a fact that the majority of people in Wales believe Westminster runs NHS Wales.

We know that the recent scandals in England have been fully investigated and a public inquiry held.

Contrast that with the refusal of the Assembly to hold an inquiry into the NHS in Wales.

As an ex-Labour party member, I consider it a disgrace that Welsh Labour recently banned Ann Clwyd MP from giving evidence at a committee hearing.

Clwyd cannot be described by anyone as a right wing Tory or an advocate of privatisation. Her sole crime is to expose the failings of the NHS in Wales.

Can we hope that the AMs find the courage to hold an enquiry into the failing NHS in Wales and then introduce much-needed reform?

John Turner, Rhoose.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL JULY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	10.47	8.5	23.01	8.1
04 Fri	11.26	8.2	23.42	8.2
05 Sat			12.11	8.0
06 Sun	00.33	8.1	13.06	7.8
07 Mon	01.33	7.8	14.14	7.7
08 Tues	02.43	7.8	15.27	7.9
09 Wed	03.48	8.3	16.33	8.4
10 Thur	04.56	8.5	17.33	9.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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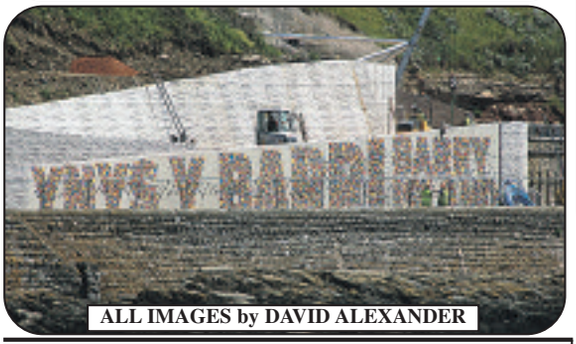

ALL IMAGES by DAVID ALEXANDER

ISLAND resident David Alexander captured these images of the on-going work at Barry Island's Eastern Promenade.

He told The GEM: "Despite the setbacks of the winter weather, the stalwart team on Barry Island are cracking on with the improvements to the promenade and the eastern shelter."

As you can already see from the progress shown in David's images, once finished, the work will change the face of that area of the Island's waterfront for decades to come.

A completion date for the project and marketing of the beach huts will be announced in the coming weeks.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The Vale Council are in discussions with the contractors regarding final completion dates.

"We are also currently writing a report for the cabinet that takes on board the wide range of comments put forward regarding the beach huts, which will be published in due course."

Police appeal

POLICE are appealing for information regarding the whereabouts of Nathan Patrick McKernan (29) from Barry who is wanted on recall to prison.

Anyone with information as to his whereabouts is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting 1400181818, Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

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New friends' group for Bethel House

ABOVE: Bethel House in Dinas Powys.

Last month, The GEM reported the setting up of a steering group to consider the formation of a support group for Bethel House Care Home in Dinas Powys,

A Friends of Bethel support group was formally created recently under the chairmanship of Mr Jeff Dyas, an Associate Pastor at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Barry.

A spokesman explained: *"The aims and objectives will be to provide extra support for both the staff and residents through prayer and through volunteers giving of their time to assist with small duties, that would take the pressure off the busy staff schedules, and also by befriending lonely residents."*

Flooding call: 'Clear the culverts!'

BARRY councillor Richard Bertin says he has asked the Vale Council to clear culverts in Court Ward due to flood risk.

"Following severe flooding in 2007, residents living in Dyfan Road and Robbins Lane have been on flood watch, but concerns have been raised again by irate locals, who say the culverts are not being cleared enough leaving them to flood risk.

"I have now asked the council to inspect these culverts again and to keep an eye on them for the local residents," he stated.

Charity tea

A STRAWBERRY tea will be held on Saturday, July 12, organised by Father Brian Taylor and members of the congregation of St Paul's Church.

All proceeds from the fundraising event are in aid of the Breast Cancer Care Charity. Doors are open from 10am-12 noon at St Paul's Church Hall in St Paul's Avenue, Barry.

Admission is £2.50, which includes tea and cake for everyone. Call 01446 735943 for more information.

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Deal C - £2.95
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1 x any pasty or pie, 1 x chips (small), 1 x can of drink.
Deal E - £4.25
1 x any burger (1/4lb), 1 x chips (small), 1 x can of drink.
Deal F - £4.95
1 x any burger (1/2lb), 1 x chips (small), 1 x can of drink.
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1 x bottle of Coke
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NEWS FROM ST CYRES SCHOOL

PICTURED receiving their certificates and prizes from St Cyres headteacher, Dr Hicks, are: Angelo Harmsworth, Ewan McDonald and Ellis Wilson of year-7, Rebecca Cummings and Mustafa Mohamed of year-8, Leia Davies-Vale, Fatima Soomro and Mason Edwards of year-9.

Mason Edwards of year-9.

The winning Life Sciences Challenge team.

Young scientists' success

Congratulations to Evie Brown, Callum Gandy, Matthew Jackson and Felix Peterken who sailed through the first round of this year's Life Sciences Challenge organised by Cardiff University PHD students.

They beat a team from Bryn Hafren 55-15. The students successfully identified famous scientists, cracked the DNA code and balanced chemical equations to progress to the quarter finals which will be held on Tuesday, July 15.

Book Shadowing team

A TEAM of eight pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the annual Carnegie Book Shadowing event held at The Gate Theatre, Cardiff on June 12.

Every year, St Cyres, along with several other south Wales schools, come together to discuss, review and produce short plays about books short-listed for the prestigious Carnegie Medal.

Pupils had been avidly reading and reviewing the nominated books for weeks. This culminated in a day spent at Howells School bringing together pupils' ideas for plays to be presented on stage at the theatre the following evening.

Everyone involved had a wonderful time. Pupils particularly enjoyed working with the other schools at the theatre and were rewarded by meeting authors Phil Earle, Phil Carradice and Tom Anderson.

The evening presentations were performed to an audience of parents and headteachers and a judging panel of authors and librarians.

Pupils were awarded prizes for best individual performance and best book presentation overall.

Mason Edwards year-9 (pictured individually) received the best individual performance award for his outstanding portrayal of Linus from the book *Bunker Diary* by Kevin Brooks.

The overall best book presentation was awarded to the book group *All The Truth That's in Me* by Julie Berry which included a performance by St Cyres pupil Ewan McDonald of year-7. Ellis Wilson, also of year-7, received a commendation for his portrayal of Joshua from the book *The Wall* by William Sutcliffe.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, well done, you are all winners!

Battle of the towns for Welsh university

DINAS POWYS PROBUS CLUB

ON June 24, Dr Gordon Roderick gave a talk entitled 'The Battle of the Sites: Swansea versus Cardiff'.

It concerned the battle in the 1880s to be awarded the right to establish Wales' first university in south Wales. The university in Aberystwyth was already in being, albeit based in a disused hotel, but it was regarded as being too remote.

In the mid 19th century, Wales was lagging far behind the rest of the UK in terms of education and social developments. England had Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Scotland had four, while Germany already had 20.

The government in Westminster did nothing to correct this imbalance and industrialists in the north of England realised that not only was Germany stealing world trade from the UK but, before long, would overtake them in the fields of medicine, engineering and science.

Civic pride in cities such as Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Newcastle led to wealthy businessmen investing large sums to establish universities in their towns.

Around 1875, a move started to set up a major university in south Wales, but then the arguments started about where it should be sited. This led to the Carmarthen Journal headlining the dispute as 'The Battle of the Sites' and urging politicians to make up their minds.

Each city tried to out-do the other by press campaigns and vitriolic statements, most of which had no bearing on which was the best site. It developed into a slanging match.

It was claimed that Cardiff was "too English" a town to have Wales's interests at heart.

Cardiff responded by saying that no-one in west Wales would want to come to Swansea and that they already had a site available in the library in The Hayes, whereas Swansea had no such facility available.

Cardiff could anticipate a large student population from the area east of Bridgend, while Swansea would have to rely on the thin student population of west Wales.

The Government appointed a selection committee to make the final decision.

None of the three-man committee had any connection with Wales, nor was qualified in any way to make a rational decision. In addition, they had all attended universities with strong Anglican church connections and regarded the Welsh as non-conformists who barely need a university. However, in 1882 they chose Cardiff and the university was established there in 1883.

Despite their early assurances, Cardiff were very slow to set up the promised schools of medicine, mining and engineering mainly due to lack of money.

It was left to mine owners to fund the early days but when their demands on how a school of mining should be run were ignored, they withdrew their support and set up their own college at Treforest.

By 1913, there were still only 10 students studying sciences, with no laboratories to work in.

In 1921, Swansea was finally able to set up its own university, with support from Sir Henry Vivian, who donated funds and land in Singleton Park, followed by Bangor.

The vote of thanks was given by Ken Wade.

Red Arrows at Wartime Weekend

THE world's premier aerial display team, the Red Arrows, will provide the highlight to this year's Barry Wartime Weekend.

Taking place at the Barry Tourist Railway, this year's event will seek to remember the part that the region played during both the Great War, and the Second World War.

Event organiser Ade Pitman said: "The Barry Tourist Railway team have done a fantastic job in securing the Red Arrows for this year's annual event, and we're sure that their aerial display will attract thousands of extra visitors to Barry Island.

"There are, however, a few details to run through, due to the proximity of Cardiff Airport, and we will advise the timings of the display once we know more.

"The securing of this display is recognition that the Barry Wartime Weekend has become one of Barry's premier summer events, and is well thought of in heritage tourism circles.

"Thanks must go to both Barry Town Council, and the Vale Council for their support this year, along with Newydd Housing, John's Cafe, Hot Diggedy Dog and Specktrum Graphics for their kind sponsorship.

"This will once again enable us to make Barry Wartime Weekend a free educational attraction for all the family.

"This year's event will once again feature living historians, military vehicles and wartime themed stalls, but we'd also like to hear from face-painters and other traders who would like to attend.

"The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre museum will be open throughout the event, providing the opportunity to visit our Great War trench scene.

"The Barry Tourist Railway will be operating a Great War era steam train throughout the event.

"We would also like to hear from potential sponsors so we can bring in even more attractions to make this year's Barry Wartime Weekend the best yet; which is fitting for this commemorative year."

Barry Wartime Weekend will take place on August 30-31.

For more information, see website www.wartimeweekend.co.uk or call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

Charlie has carpentry career in her site!

CHARLIE WALLER from Barry has set her sights on becoming a carpenter and recently spent a week on the former Barry Magistrates Courts site on placement with Jehu Project Services Ltd, who are building housing and retail units on behalf of Newydd Housing and the Vale Council.

The £6m project which will provide 52 affordable homes and retail units in the town centre, has hosted a number of taster days for local people interested in trying their skills in construction.

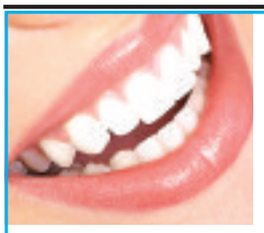
Charlie attended one of these taster days in April and this led to the offer of work experience on the project. She has been able to work alongside local carpentry firm Jones and Ryle, gaining useful experience to set her up for her next step in September which is a carpentry course at Cardiff and Vale College.

Charlie Waller from Barry.

Bernie Mark, Jehu Construction Opportunities Coordinator said: " We are delighted to be able to support local people interested in pursuing a career in the construction industry – and particularly keen to encourage local women and girls like Charlie to consider the industry as a real training and employment choice – and not just as an area restricted to men."

BARRY SURGERY

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA on July 4 between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.



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The little fella found on Dock View Road is on his way home.

Lucky cat has found his way back home!

by GEM REPORTER

TWO BARRY sisters recently issued an appeal after they found a black cat with distinctive markings on Dock View Road.

At the time, Nicole and Natalie-Ann Jones told The GEM: "He is a very special cat who has had enough trauma in his little life.

"We want to reunite him with his owner. He was found wandering on Dock View Road near the leisure centre at around 8pm on Monday, June 9.

"He was walking in the middle of the road towards oncoming traffic and quite distressed.

"He is in a very good condition and not very old. We are very keen to return this little fella to his owner."

The cat was deaf and blind.

The sisters have been back in touch to say their search was fruitful and the owner has been found.

They said: "Following the article regarding the cat we found in Barry we would like to thank everyone for the calls we received.

"Could we please say a big thank you to SHUA – Safe House for Unwanted Animals – which is located in Sully. It is a small animal welfare charity which cared and paid the vet bills during his stay with them whilst waiting for his owner to come and collect him."

Photo found at Lewis Street in house clearance

ABOVE:
This photograph was found in a house in Lewis Street, Barry during a house clearance. The GEM understands that the owner of the house has moved to a residential home, but would like it reunited with a family that has a connection to it. Can you shed any light on the people in the image? Perhaps you have a theory as to when the photograph was taken, or what the occasion might have been. If so, please contact The GEM by email at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.

WHAT'S ON - In brief

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on July 5 from 10am to 12 noon at Barry CAB office, 119 Broad Street.

Show bus

A BUS has been arranged to go to the Royal Welsh Show at Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, on Tuesday, July 22. for more information, ring Cath on 01446 774530.

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Llancarfan riders raise £400 on Le Tour de Galles challenge!

ON June 20, a group of cyclists called the Llancarfan Riders took up the Le Tour de Galles challenge to cycle 400 miles around Wales in four days, in order to raise money for Tros Gynnal Plant children's charity and Llancarfan Primary School.

The cyclists, who were made up of parents of pupils at the school, friends of Llancarfan and the headteacher, set out in glorious sunshine and had over 100 miles to ride that day. With fresh legs they got to Borth in Ceredigion – despite never having trained together before!

The planned route from Llancarfan to Borth then to Cwm Pennant in the north west, Clun in Shropshire and, finally, back to Llancarfan, showed off Wales' stunning scenery – but also meant they had to tackle punishingly long and steep hill climbs along the way.

By day two they were stiff and a little sore, but now they were starting to cycle as a team, not just a group of cyclists, maintaining good pace and formation.

On days three and four, they were blessed again with glorious weather and with the end in sight, they ploughed on, to arrive safely back at Llancarfan Primary School in the middle of sports day, where the whole school cheered their arrival.

There were emotional greetings from families and many tears of joy for their safe arrival home.

The ride was extremely well supported and the aim to raise £4,000 achieved. You can see pictures of the ride on Llancarfan Primary School Facebook page and still make donations to Tros Gynnal Plant childrens charity by going to https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/trosgynnalplant

Penarth and District Ramblers' round-up

ON a dry, humid evening with absolutely no wind, 12 Ramblers met with leader Geraint and his sheepdog, Patch, near the Colcot Arms at the start of a local walk taking in the beautiful Goldsland Valley.

Carefully crossing the busy Port Road to join a narrow lane beside the Brynhill Golf Club, they dropped downhill towards Little Brynhill Farm and crossing their first stile entered fields where the long grass had recently been cut and harvested.

Descending beneath tall pylons carrying power lines and crossing a footbridge over the Nant Brynhill to walk around the edge of a huge field of ripening barley, the group headed up through a field of nonchalant horses, except for a frisky stallion, to New Wallace.

Passing through the stable yard and a gate, there were fantastic views across the Goldsland valley, where bales of hay were being given a coating of black plastic by a hardworking farmer driving the tractor and baler.

Following a dusty farm track through several gates to Old Wallace, they left the working farmyard to enter grassy meadows and following prior permission from the farmer, clambered carefully over a barbed wire fence beside the River Waycock, because the stile on the public footpath was totally unusable due to thick deep mud!

Passing near what originally was Lidmore Mill, but is now a delightful private dwelling, it was interesting to note this was once part of a village known as Uchelolau or Highlight and peasants had to use this mill, which was owned by the Lord of the Manor, to grind their corn or risk heavy fines.

Climbing uphill beside part of Brynhill golf course, to pause at the site of Highlight Church, a small medieval chapel or church which was part of the medieval village with a priest's house situated nearby, it was sad to see the remains totally engulfed by foliage and briars.

Then following the old drover's track up to Highlight Farm, which is situated near where the original moated manor house stood, the group followed Highlight Lane through the housing estate back to Port Road.

On June 28, meet 9.30am at the Barry Waterfront for a six-mile easy walk; contact Barbara on 01446 794313.

On July 3, the evening walk will leave Cold Knap car terrace at 7pm for a 3.5-mile moderate walk taking in Porthkerry Country Park; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

PLAID ADVICE

RESIDENTS are invited to an advice surgery to discuss their concerns with Couns Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic Hodges and Shirley Hodges – joined by Steve Blakeman, Marilyn Brown and the Barry Plaid Cymru team at the County Library, King Square, Barry from 11am-12 midday on Saturday, July 5. No appointments are necessary.

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FUNERAL DISRUPTED

Lyndsay Ellis, of The Vale Funeral Service, outside the United Reform Church on Windsor Road, where his funeral cones were stolen.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Lyndsay had to go and get a new set of cones to secure the parking area in front of the church and in the end, the funeral went smoothly ahead.

He has been using the United Reform Church for six weeks and arranged nine funerals there, but this is the first time there has been a problem.

He and Nicki hope this is an isolated incident and won't be repeated. The cones are still missing.

Lyndsay added: "No one would like this to happen to their family and it is disrespectful."

Council house funding

PLAID Cymru councillor Ian Johnson has welcomed proposed changes to council funding that will mean that an extra £2m per year will be spent on council houses in the Vale, and called for new council housing to meet demand caused by the bedroom tax and an ageing population.

He said: "It is excellent news that more than £2.25m per year will be available for council housing improvements or building new council houses in the Vale in future.

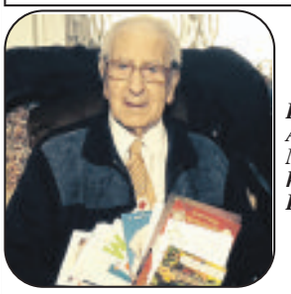
"I have long campaigned against the unfair Housing Revenue Account system, or the Great Welsh Rent Robbery as one government adviser called it.

"Under this system, 21 of Wales' 22 local authorities gave council house rents to Westminster, rather than spending it on improving council housing in Wales.

"The system was a nonsense and why Plaid Cymru's 2010 manifesto demanded that it be ended.

"Spending on housing improvements, as we have seen with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard scheme, not only improves the quality of social housing, but also creates jobs locally – a win-win situation.

Alfred celebrates his 103rd birthday!



LEFT: Alfred Mills at home in Barry.

ONE of the Vale's great characters, local historian Alfred ('Alf') Mills, has celebrated his 103rd birthday at his Barry home.

One of The GEM's longstanding contributors, whose fascinating personal insights into the history of the Vale has won him many admirers, said:

"I want to thank everyone who sent me cards – I got 32. "They weren't just from family, they were from friends as well," he said.

Quite naturally at his advanced age Alfred has one or two health issues – "I am struggling with my mobility and need a stick and tricycle device to get around" – but his mind is as sharp as ever.

Alf is sustained by his strong Christian faith: "I attend Bethel Baptist Church and have been going there since 1935 when I married my dear late wife, Edith."

The GEM joins his many 'fans' in wishing Alfred many more happy birthdays!

Local man tackles the Three Peaks!

RIGHT: The challenge is over as Gethyn Clarke celebrates at the summit of Pen-y-Fan.

A LOCAL man has thanked people in the St Athan area for their support and sponsorship when he tackled the Welsh Three Peaks challenge.

Gethyn Clarke left Cardiff last month with around 43 other hardy souls to take on the challenge in aid of Cancer Research Wales.

He told The GEM: "We arrived in Snowdonia at half past midnight and began climbing at 4:30 am. After Snowdon, we climbed Cadre Idris and then headed south to Pen y Fan.

"Each mountain took on average four hours, with around three hours of travelling in between. The challenge was complete in 16 hours and was followed by a barbecue, a good night's sleep and about a week of aching".

He continued: "I would really like to thank Sue Copner and all her staff and customers at the Four Bells in St Athan, and all my friends and family for their generous sponsorship and much appreciated support and encouragement".

Penarth fair

THERE will be a summer fair in the Paget Rooms, Penarth on Saturday, July 12, in aid of Cancer Research UK. Doors open at 10am, admission £1, usual stalls – cakes and savouries, white elephants, plants, preserves, raffle, and others.

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Vale RESORT ★★★★

Learning journeys marked with new Inspire awards

Vale Network members with Jane Hutt AM, the Vale Mayor and Miss Vale of Glamorgan.

THE Vale Learning Festival Group recently hosted its first local Inspire Awards for Learning Journeys ceremony at Barry Memorial Hall.

The successful event, attended by Jane Hutt AM and Alun Cairns MP, was organised to celebrate the 'learning journeys' of local people nominated for the National NIACE Dysgu Cymru awards in Llandudno.

Each nominee was presented with a certificate and each individual's story was read to the audience. Local awards were also presented during the evening by the Vale Mayor, including Learning Journey Awards and the Gail Hughes Award for Learning in the Community.

Colette Chilcott, chairman of the Vale Learning Network and main organiser of the evening, said: "We were delighted to see so many people at the event to help us celebrate all of the fantastic things the local adult learners have achieved.

"It was a great opportunity to give people the recognition they deserve and to inspire others to learn a new skill. Choosing the winners for the awards was an almost impossible task".

The two Learner Awards went to Adam Harvey, who was nominated by iTec for Learning at Work and Clare Tyne, who was nominated by Putting Families First.

The Gail Hughes award for learning in the community, a new annual award in memory of a lady who worked with the Network for over ten years and sadly died recently, went to the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum.

The evening followed another event organised by the Vale Learning Festival Group in the Memorial Hall. Families enjoyed the large planetarium, a chance to be part of a rock band with Rock Academy Wales and many stalls including arts and crafts for the children and an animation workshop.

The nominees and winners of the Inspire Awards are:

Adam Harvey, winner – nominated by iTec for Learning at Work; Anita Cooper, runner-up – nominated by Open Learning Centre; Clare Tyne, winner – nominated by Putting Families First; Sarah Price, runner-up – nominated by Putting Families First; Vale 50+ Strategy Forum – The Gail Hughes Award for Learning in the Community nominated by John Porter, Vale 50+ Strategy Forum Coordinator; Sam Harrison, CAVC learner; Billy Adams, CAVC tutor winner; Marilyn Hellyar, Adult Community Learning and NIACE National Learner of the year; Biga John, Adult Community Learning learner; Maria Konarska, Adult Community Learning Learner; Amy Lewis, ICAT training; Robert Morgan, Employer Pledge Project Learner; Kay Rawlinson, Putting Families First; Christopher Richmond, Adult Community Learning Learner; Paula Spry, Carol Grant – Welsh for Adults, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan; Vale People First Training Team – Adam Hughes, Lindsay Foster, Alex Stevenson, Michael Owen, Vale People First Training; Patricia Watkiss, Adult Community Learning Learner.

Farmers' union plans massive charity coastal walk challenge

MEMBERS of the Farmers' Union of Wales in Cowbridge and the Vale will be helping their colleagues tackle an around Wales charity challenge later this year!

FUW members and friends are planning to cover all 871 miles of the Wales Coast Path during a huge sponsored walk event to raise funds for children's charities Tŷ Hafan and Tŷ Gobaith – and they plan to do it in just two days!

If 871 miles in two days sounds impossible, then the simple answer is that teams of walkers will start simultaneously on Saturday and Sunday (September 13/14).

At the end of the weekend the various teams will have walked the entire Wales Coastal Path!

The two charities have been chosen by FUW president Emyr Jones, and more than £11,000 has already been raised since the appeal was launched earlier this year.

Mr Jones said: "The idea of covering every section of the Wales Coast Path is a huge challenge but I have no doubt that, with the enthusiasm and support of union staff, members and friends, it can be achieved.

"Walks have been organised for all sections of the coast path, varying in length from three to 16 miles, and we will require about 90 teams to help us meet our target.

"We invite anyone willing and able to join us for this exciting fundraising event to let their local FUW county office know as soon as possible. Pre-registration is essential, due to the nature of the event."

To pre-register, contact the local county office at 58, Eastgate, Cowbridge (telephone 01446 774838).

Trust claims new plan will put its finances back on track again

CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board was one of three Welsh NHS trusts to be singled out by the Auditor General for overspending.

The trust "breached its approved spending limits" by £19.2 million. Two other trusts – Hywel Dda in Carmarthen and Powys Teaching Health Board – were in the red by a similar amount.

The Conservative Shadow Health Minister, Darren Millar AM, said that it proved that the NHS in Wales had been starved of resources for too long by the Labour Welsh Government.

Charlotte Moar, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's Director of Finance, said: "The health board does not take the qualification of its accounts lightly but we are buoyed by the fact that our three-year plan to return us to a strong financial position has been agreed by Welsh Government.

"A great deal of work has gone into developing our three-year plan, which is driven by improving patient care but also in finding better, innovative, more efficient ways of working.

"Some of those ideas take investment at the start to get them off the ground but the benefits will be many, which is why we are confident in our plans for the coming years."

TOP advice

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer FREE professional advice to elderly people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB, on July 7 (from 10am until midday).

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321, or 01308 488066.

Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

320 families in the rural Vale are in need of an affordable home but are priced out of the market.

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PACT news

***COURT PACT**, new Scout Hall, Dyfan Road, Barry, on July 10 at 6pm.*

***BUTTRILLS PACT**, Barry Library, Kings Square on July 10 at 6.30pm.*

***CADOC PACT**, Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, Barry, on July 23 at 6pm.*

***COFFEE and chat meeting**, Green Dragon, Llancadle on July 15 at 11am.*

***DINAS POWYS PACT**, Bethesda Church, Fairoaks, Dinas Powys on July 21 at 7pm.*

***ST AUGUSTINE PACT**, Windsor Arms public house, Penarth, on July 23 at 7pm.*

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Speaking up for the Welsh NHS...

IT is always heartwarming to read letters in The GEM which report on the excellent care and treatment readers have experienced in the NHS. Such was one letter in last week's GEM, which described the NHS as 'a national treasure'.

I also received a letter from a constituent this week who has spent five nights recently in the Princess of Wales Hospital.

His message to me was that he could not 'praise it highly enough' reporting on the ''outstanding care' provided by staff who cared for and treated him.

This is borne out in the independent National Survey of Wales reporting in May on high levels of satisfaction with our public services - particularly the NHS in Wales.

This provides a huge morale boost to our staff who work tirelessly in the Health Service in these most challenging times –something which was highlighted so clearly in the recent Nuffield Trust Report, 'A Decade of Austerity in Wales? The funding pressures facing the NHS in Wales to 2025/26' Last week, I hosted the Cardiff and Vale Unison Health Staff Achievement Awards at the Senedd, where staff in our local hospitals were nominated for awards by their colleagues and managers.

Awards for those who go 'above and beyond were won by staff in the Breast Cancer Centre at Llandough Hospital and there were also awards for staff commitment to Education as well as the 'Outstanding Person Award', which I presented.

This award went to Michael Ryan, a Housekeeping Supervisor. who was nominated by his Operational Services Team Manager who has known and worked with Michael since 2005 during which time he has progressed from being a Housekeeping Assistant to a Supervisor. She said that he was 'dependable, efficient and unfailingly punctual'.

She also said: "He loves people, works hard, and always tries to lift the spirits of those around him.I believe these characteristics represent all that is good in the Cardiff and Vale UHB." She commended Michael's work in Infection Control and said that he continues to undertake training courses whenever possible and is working towards his Level 3 in Health Care Support Services.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

An important award also went to Helen Watkins of Dinas Powys, for her 'Approach toward Partnership' achievements, which was presented by the Health and Social Services Minister, Professor Mark Drakeford.

He praised her for her commitment to partnership working in her key role as a manager in the Health Board and said she was an example and role model for managers in the Welsh NHS.

Last week, as Finance Minister, I announced new Capital funding for the Welsh NHS to help provide quality healthcare.

The £18m investment announced will fund essential equipment and facilities for the NHS to help meet the challenges of the 21st century.

This includes funding for new diagnostic equipment across Wales. The Health Minister responded to this new allocation of funding by saying that we need to ensure that our NHS is 'fit for purpose'.

I said that we want to boost growth and jobs while delivering first class public services across Wales, despite the challenging times we are in, for our public finances.

This takes me back to the letter in the GEM where the reader reminds us: "At times of great difficulty, we tend to concentrate on the bad things, forgetting the good work the NHS has done over nearly 70 years, free at the point of use, and open to all - regardless of status."

Dinas Powys Probus Club members gather for summer

Dinas Powys Probus Club members had their summer gathering recently at the local golf club and photographer MIKE WILCOCK was on hand to capture their special day.

Assisted areas map welcome

THE Vale AM has welcomed a new assisted areas map, which now includes Rhoose and St Athan.

The map identifies areas where businesses can receive higher levels of government support for investment in jobs up to 2020.

"This is positive news for the Vale of Glamorgan; Assisted area status will make the Vale attractive to businesses and will boost investment in the St Athan Enterprise Zone," Ms Hutt commented.

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BRYN BRINGING TWO CHOIRS TOGETHER!

WALES Air Ambulance is an all-Wales charity providing emergency air cover for those who face life-threatening injuries or illness.

The charity's three very busy helicopters cover more than 8,000 square miles and some 800 miles of coastline. It needs to raise £6 million each year to make this life-saving service happen. Enter Bryn Williams, whose son is a paramedic with the service!

Bryn Williams (pictured, centre).

A former Bridgend resident and Bridgend Male Choir chorister for many years, Bryn now lives at St Asaph in the north and sings with the excellent Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir, as well as still singing with Bridgend.

To assist the charity's fund-raising, you've guessed it, Bryn has arranged for both choirs to sing together and appeals to all to come along to support this great cause. The choirs will sing separately and come together at the end.

The joint concert takes place at 7pm this Saturday, July 5, at Tabernacle Welsh Congregational Church, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Tickets (just £5) are available at the Wales Air Ambulance Charity Shop, 30 Adare Street, Bridgend, telephone 01656 649475; at the church immediately prior to the concert or from any chorister. Much-travelled Bryn hopes to see you there!

DAVID T BURT

Councillor's concern at reduced libary hours

BARRY-based students at St David's Sixth Form College have expressed concerns about the impact of a 22 per cent opening hours cut at Barry Library under Vale council plans, and how it will affect college students trying to find a quiet place to study and revise.

ABOVE; *St David's College sixth form students George Moyle, Adele Saif, Akshay Petta and Jake Harvey (from left to right) with Plaid Cymru Councillor Ian Johnson in the centre.*

The Vale Council has proposed cutting the library's opening hours from 60 per week down to 47, include early closing for the library, which is currently open for two evenings a week.

The St David's College Students told Plaid Cymru's town centre councillor, Ian Johnson, that Barry Library provided them with a quiet and secure place to study, had a range of books and resources that helped them revise and was an alternative and convenient location close to home, rather than travelling to Cardiff.

Akshay Petta, who hopes to study economics after completing his college course and is the current president of St David's Student Union, told Coun Johnson: "Barry Library has a good selection of books here, relevant to our courses, and well-trained and knowledgeable staff who know where everything is.

"It's also a more convenient location for us to study and revise after college finishes for the day. Otherwise we have to stay in Cardiff and use the facilities there, which means a late night finish to travel back home and you lose the flexibility of being able to just pack up and go home when you feel like it.

"Just knowing that you have a library close to home that's open makes a big difference."

Adele Saif, who hopes to study Spanish and linguistics, said that not everybody has a study room or quiet location to work at home.

"When you're writing notes or revising, it's important that you're in a quiet environment so that you can concentrate.

"Not everybody has a desk or room at home that can be given over to carrying out college work, so there's always distractions such as other people putting on the tv or making a noise."

Coun Johnson spoke against the proposed cuts at a lifelong learning scrutiny meeting.

He said: "I was impressed by the way that the students use Barry Library to revise their work and borrow books that might not otherwise not be available.

"Unfortunately, these students who are at college in Cardiff, like anybody who works outside Barry – or even works outside the town centre – will be severely restricted in their ability to physically visit the library to borrow books, read papers or use the facilities available.

"It is a successful service, and recent reports show that the Vale library service is appreciated by 96 per cent of users and that the number of loans and visitors to libraries is higher than the Welsh and UK average.

"At a time when there is so much focus being put on literacy at all ages, there is still time for the Vale Council to rethink their plans to cut Barry Library's opening hours by 22 per cent per week."

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Cyclists appeal for support

SIX friends who work at Dow Corning Ltd are cycling 500 miles from Porthcawl to Paris, to raise funds for Prostate Cymru and Velindre appeals.

Left to right, above, are Andy Rowles, David Lloyd, Mike Westal, Paul and Marcus Cleaver (father and son), and Barry Lavin, who are hoping local people will rally to their support.

SEWING BOX SKILLS SUPPORT WOMEN'S AID

THE Sewing Box in Llantwit Major is asking its customers to use their knitting and crochet skills to make baby hats for Vale Women's Aid (Atal y Fro).

Pictured are members of the Thursday afternoon 'knit and natter' group who have already got started.

Vale Women's Aid supports women and children who have experienced, or are experiencing domestic abuse. Women and children often arrive at a refuge with little or no clothing. The baby hats will be donated to Vale Women's Aid.

There are prizes for the best baby hats; these will be judged by Vale Women's Aid and Jane Hutt AM. Deadline for entries is Thursday, July 17. Customers are asked to leave the baby hats at the Sewing Box.

Lynn, owner of the Sewing Box, said: "We are proud to do something to help this important organisation. The Sewing Box has adopted Vale Women's Aid as its charity of the year. The business will be working to raise awareness and funds to support its vital work.

"Sewing Box customers are also knitting and crocheting baby clothes and blankets which will be donated to Vale Women's Aid. These can be left at the shop as well."

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Anti-fracking protest by FoE

HUNDREDS are expected to gather on Working Street, Cardiff on Saturday (July 5), as Friends of the Earth joins others around the country for Wales Against Fracking Day.

Gareth Clubb of Friends of the Earth Cymru, said: "Fracking is terrible news for climate change, bad news for the environment, and it's not welcomed by communities. Even the fracking companies admit it won't lower fuel bills!

"We're asking the First Minister to call a moratorium on fracking. The Welsh Government has full control over planning, so they could put a stop to it in an instant."

IN BRIEF

Garden party

A GARDEN party will be held on Sunday (July 6) at 3pm, in aid of Velindre Hospital cancer research appeal in The Old Hall Gardens, Cowbridge, when pupils from the Moya Vahey and Ella Morgan schools of Russian classical ballet will dance, before refreshments are served.

Fibromyalgia support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, July 8 (11am – 1pm). Telephone Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

Shadows

July 8 at Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (tel 02920 309979), South Wales Shadows Club, 8pm; all welcome.

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Fun with a child safety message

APPROXIMATELY 200 people turned out to support a child safety event on June 24 on King's Square, Barry, organised by the Vale's Flying Start team.

The 'community education campaign' event, spearheaded by the Child Accident Prevention Trust, was held to help raise awareness of serious childhood accidents and offer advice to help prevent them.

Classes from Holton Primary School attended throughout the day enjoying different activities and learning how to keep themselves safe.

Many partner organisations were also involved such as the Coastguard, Fire Service, and St John's Ambulance, and the local branches of Boots and Tenovus kindly sun cream samples to help protect guests in the sun.

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Penarth Computer Club: *End of term!*

AS the members assembled for the last meeting before summer, the chairman noted that he was putting together the programme that starts in September.

He reminded them that the programme is intended for their interest and assistance. It is, therefore, important for the members to say what they would like the content to be.

"Put your thinking caps on." he said and tell him by email what you would like to see in the programme.

If you do that, it could appear. If you don't, it can't!

He reminded everyone that we will be having an open evening (see below) as part of the Penarth Festival.

As usual, members who are available are invited to bring along a laptop or notebook and be prepared to answer questions about the club and what we do.

At the end of term, schools have academic tests or assessments. At Computer Club we have a sociable evening with a different sort of test – a memory test in the form of a quiz.

An exam might show up gaps in knowledge, certainly our quiz does. It is just as well that we do not take it too seriously.

No prize, but lots of fun. Perhaps the attraction is the chance to tuck into traditional fish and chips with friends.

Kevin selected his questions from the syllabus of life. Some found that the advantages of many years of experience were counterbalanced by the infirmities of age.

Harry enjoys the company despite being unable to read the big print on the screen or hear the question-master.

I suspect one member is permitted chips only at this event. Others shuffle about within their team to make sure that their hearing aid is on the right side and the one who is still able to write jots down the answers – if anyone knows them.

At times like these we realise how limited our range of life experiences actually is. What is also surprising are the answers that your team mates know about things you are hardly even aware existed.

Part of the fun is the frustration of knowing that you know the answer to the question, but the words will not come. You can 'see' the person required, you know a lot about them – yet fail to drag up the name.

…But the real joy is when you happen to have the specific piece of obscure knowledge that amazes your friends. Unfortunately, this pride often precedes the fall of insisting on an answer that turns out to be utterly wrong.

…Kevin was thanked for his work in preparing the quiz. Everyone then tucked in to their food and enjoyed a chat. Computing might have been mentioned. Have a good summer.

We are closed until September but you are welcome to visit on July15 at All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth from 7.45 pm when we hold an open evening. Chat to members and find out how we could help you. Visit or web-site at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

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Wales at War's bilingual tribute to fallen heroes

Dr Jonathan Hicks with sixth form student from St Cyres, who were widely praised for their presentations by the attendees at the launch aboard HMS Enterprise. Guests included the First Minister and the First Sea Lord.

THE National Library of Wales has announced the launch in Cardiff of Wales at War Cymru yn y Rhyfel (W@W), a project to develop inclusive learning and heritage activities, as part of the commemoration of the First World War in Wales.

Wales at War has been funded by the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Welsh Government education department. The project is led by the National Library of Wales, in partnership with the Royal Navy and schools in Wales.

The project will also work closely with a range of partners, including the Armed Forces, ARCW, RCAHM, CADW, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the War Memorials Trust.

Wales at War will create a major digital resource via a dedicated platform/App. The app will include: a First World War timeline with a distinct Welsh flavour; a Theatres of War element, depicting where Welsh Service personnel fought and using primary source materials to depict their living conditions and experiences; and a war memorial section which will include details of war memorial throughout Wales and engage young people in historical research compiling biographies of the fallen of the War as listed on their local community war memorials.

The project will raise community awareness and resonance of the memorials, drawing attention to any conservation needs and will serve as a meaningful World War 1 legacy for Wales and a tribute to the fallen.

Professor Lorna Hughes, University of Wales Chair in Digital Collections at the National Library of Wales, and Project Director said: "Wales at War is an inclusive, bilingual learning and discovery programme that will engage young people in Wales in activities to develop their understanding of history.

"The project will encourage reflection of the transformational impact of the First World War on life and communities in Wales."

Commander Tom Herman, Royal Navy said: "Through activities focused on local war memorials, Wales at War will highlight the sacrifice of Welsh Service personnel, and show the impact of the War on individuals and communities.

"The project will introduce new generations to the cause, impact and consequences of the First World War, on life and communities throughout Wales, and pay tribute to those Welsh people whose hard work and sacrifice is remembered by us all."

Dr Jonathan Hicks, Headteacher, St Cyres School, historian and author said: "Throughout this project, pupils and teachers will be guided in developing skills in historical research and new technology to document and capture images of local war memorials, construct biographies of the fallen, report their findings, and illustrate their learning experience through creative activities, digital or recorded, according to each pupils age and ability.

"This project will give pupils a more representational understanding of the global nature of the First World War, and develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the War outside the stereotyped images of the Western Front trenches."

Kate Marshall, educational coordinator, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, believes that "Wales at War will encourage students to research their past and ultimately engage with their local history. The project will allow students, and teachers alike, to commemorate those men and women who died in the First World War.

"Through developing new skills and knowledge students will be able to cultivate and share their research, visit war memorials and war cemeteries and (hopefully) paint a picture of how the war affected the whole of Wales".

Wales at War is an important community outreach project that will foster greater engagement between schools, families, community groups and military organisations, and develop a collective biography of Wales at War.

The project will give Wales a meaningful and fitting tribute, 'To the sons of Wales who gave their lives in the Great War of 1914–1918.' (Inscription – Welsh National War Memorial, Cardiff).

Home alone Freddie is up for adoption

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"Love and purrs, Freddie. x x"

Contact the Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ on 01656 724396, or email bridgend@cats.org.uk. W: www.bridgend.cats.org.uk Visit pages at www.facebook.com/cpbridgend or www.twitter.com/CPbridgendAC.

Twin town students gather in the Vale

International gathering – as the students line up with civic leaders for a souvenir snapshot.

STUDENTS from towns twinned with the Vale were invited by the Vale Council to an activities week at Atlantic College, St Donats.

Students from Fécamp in northern France and Mouscron in Belgium made the trip to join local students from across the area.

Mayor of the Vale, Coun Howard Hamilton, attended a presentation day, along with members of the Vale's youth cabinet, to celebrate the council's long-standing relationship with the twinned towns.

The students took part in the activities, made new friends and learnt more about different European cultures.

TIME CAPSULE AT LIBRARY

A TIME capsule will be buried in a ceremony on Wednesday, July 16 between 4pm and 5pm outside the children's section at Cowbridge library.

Cowbridge library Chatterbook group will be contributing to the content of the time capsule. This is a small group of avid readers who meet to duscuss books, participate in craft activities and have fun.

The Old Hall gardening group will also be providing a short talk to the children on bio-diversity on Wednesday, July 16 and will assist in the burying of the time capsule.

The summer reading scheme will run from July 12 to September 13. This year, the theme will be 'The Mythical Maze'.

Thingamajigs

BARN dance on Saturday, July 12 at Court Farm, Penllyn at 7.30pm. Families welcome; £8 adults; £5, 18 years and under. Parking in field opposite.

Tickets available from Johana on 07940324617, The GEM, or from Cowbridge Comprehensive School Reception.

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Saved from capture by brother George

by NANCY DAVIDGE, GEM correspondent for Treoes, Llangan and St Mary Hill

THIS week, with attention focused on VJ Day, I am devoting my column to the memory of my late husband, Chris, and all the other servicemen of the 14th Army, who served in India and Burma during the Second World War.

As we remember the end of the hostilities between Japan and the allies 50 years ago, I would like to share with GEM readers a few of my own poignant memories of the historic time. After a whirlwind courtship of just seven months, Chris wrote and told me he would be coming home on embarkation leave in two weeks, and would I consider getting married. I gave my answer!

The next 10 days were somewhat hectic. I had to borrow so many things, as clothing was rationed, but with the help of family and friends, who pooled their resources, I was able to buy a lovely lace wedding dress. My bouquet of carnations was made by a friend.

Mt eight bridesmaids – bought their own dresses – and two flower girls, really made my day. Our wedding took place on March 21, 1942, and my husband returned to his regiment on March 24.

We did not realise then that it would be three years and eight months before we would be together again.

Like countless thousands of other men, he found himself on the long, uncomfortable voyage to India. At one stage of hostilities, while in Burma, my husband and his troop were surrounded by the Japanese and when they were rescued by a British armoured division, he did not know it, but his brother George was in a leading tank.

It was several months later when they met and were able to reminisce on their experiences, that Chris realised he had been saved by his own brother...

After the surrender of the Japanese Government and the full horror of the inhuman authorities meted out to allied prisoners by their guards, I was so very thankful that fate had played its hand that day in the Burmese jungle.

On November 15, 1945, Chris and I were united – no crowds or bands playing – just the two of us. The family reunion would be celebrated later.

After his return from Burma, Chris had three attacks of malaria which decreased in severity, but it was many months before he was really fit.

My husband sent this poem to me when he was in India in 1943. It is in his own words:

Most times my
deepest thoughts reside,
and rest in memory
of my bride.
For, always in my
heart, your smile
when you, by my
side, stood in such
grand style;
then the glorious
days we spent there
after you filled my heart
with joy and laughter,
Then suddenly our
world was stilled,
end my heart with
gloom was filled
at the moment we
kissed goodbye,
I thought my world
would surely die.
Though all alone I
may be, my dear,
I think of your eyes
so frank and clear.
For when we joined
our lives together,
it surely bound our
two souls forever.
But now I can only
fret and wait,
for the day we meet
at the garden gate.
From there we start
our lives again,
and sing through life
our love's refrain.

Great War: *a price worth paying?*

HUNDREDS of books have been written about the Great War, but *Breverton's First World War Curiosities*, published by Amberley Publishing at £9.99, and compiled by prolific author Terry Breverton is different from most of them in that it is a remarkable compendium of oddities, curiosities and little known facts about 'The War to end all Wars'.

It features the greatest battles, war slang, casualties, heroes and heroines, animals, spies and weapons and much, much more.

The author certainly hasn't any kind words to say about Douglas Haig, the British Field Marshall who was appointed commander in chief of the British forces on the Western front (1915-18).

Of Haig, who founded the British Legion to ameliorate the plight of ex-servicemen and their families, he writes: "There is not enough space to describe Haig's brand of idiocy during the war. Like most modern politicians and business leaders, he always shot the bearer of bad news and believed what he wanted to believe."

Breverton goes on to say: "Haig stayed away from the trenches, and would not listen to his better generals or intelligence that he did not agree with" and "Most of the surviving infantry on the Western Front despised him."

Can it really be true that Haig never, ever visited the trenches?

I seem to recall that Henry Williamson, author of *Tarka The Otter*, and a series of novels about the First World War in which he had taken part, and which I read some years ago, had some sympathy for Haig, so the comments on him really took me by surprise.

Haig, we are told: "believed that 420,000 British casualties in 1914 were worth a severe blow to German prestige."

One thing this really interesting book may do is to make you want to read more about the First World War. It has certainly rekindled my interest. ***Brian Lee***

CRAFT FAIR

ENFYS Craft Fair will be held at the St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road on Saturday, July 5 between 10am and 4pm.

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no charity this month.

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

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World War One centenary service of Remembrance

WORLD War One began on August 4, 1914 and to commemorate the centenary of a conflict, which affected the lives of so many people and resulted in such a high death toll, the Royal British Legion Cowbridge and Holy Cross Church, have organised a service of Remembrance on August 3.

The service at Holy Cross Church will commence at 11am (in seats by 10.45am please) and is expected to last about and hour.

A spokesman said that an invitation is extended to everyone in the community – and RBL members, current service personnel and ex-services people are especially welcome.

RBL standard bearers from the old Vale of Glamorgan area have been invited to attend and are asked to contact Jim Winson as soon as possible by email at *jwinson@tiscali.co.uk* or call the RBL Chairman on 01446 774435 to confirm their attendance.

Refreshments will be provided at the Duke of Wellington Hotel following the service.

"This is an important event and an opportunity for us all to show our gratitude to those who gave their lives in the conflict.

"Put the date in your diary, or if you are more high-tec log it into your smartphone, and let us, the people of Cowbridge, demonstrate that 'We do remember them," the spokesman urged.

Barbecue and history!

FOLLOWING earlier successes, the Llanblethian Community Group is holding two events on Saturday, July 5 – a history trail departing from Cross Inn at 4pm for a two-hour guided stroll around the village (no charge); and the annual barbecue will take place from 6pm at Cross Inn. Entertainment is by Irish folk band Shenanigans, and there will be a treasure hunt.

Glenbrook Inn's summer menu has a touch of Hollywood!

LEFT: The popular community pub-restaurant, the Glenbrook Inn.

THE Glenbrook Inn, on Dobbins Road, Barry, is famed as a community pub with great food and its latest menu hits the taste buds with a host of fun dishes.

The vegetarian dish has been dubbed 'Meat's Not Occurring'; 'Jack Liemon' is the char-grilled chicken breast in mixed herbs with lime juice; 'Captain Jerk Sparrow' is a prime Welsh steak; and 'Oh Mama Mia' is homemade lasagne.

There's much, much more, and as Liam O'Leary of the Glenbrook Inn explains, it continues the popular pub-restaurant's tradition of constantly updating what it offers.

"The menu was created on the basis of introducing very summery, seasonal dishes from basic ingredients and putting our little twist on them.

"We've given a number of dishes quirky names to inspire interest and fun – movie stars, pop idols, film characters, they're all in there!"

Liam believes in creating new summer and winter menus each year to provide variety for his clientele.

"People appreciate that we make the extra effort. They also appreciate that we provide vegetarian options and gluten free meals and desserts too."

The Glenbrook is also providing 'Glenbrook Ice Cream Parlour Desserts' thanks to its new ice cream making machine.

"We've also go a 'slush puppy' machine," said Liam, "to add some fun for the children and young-at-heart adults."

The Glenbrook Inn has been a go-to pub for 33 years because of its friendly family atmosphere, and the fact that Liam and his staff work hard to provide what their customers want.

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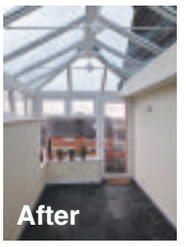

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Royal couple visit Llantwit Major and Dyffryn Gardens

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Telephone 07791 228684
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DURING the Vale visit this week Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall stopped off at Dyffryn Gardens at St Nicholas and the Galilee Chapel in Llantwit Major.

They walked the gardens on a beautifully sunny afternoon and met many of the people who have helped with the fundraising, conservation, research and promotion of Dyffryn Gardens in the past few years.

They were introduced to current National Trust staff; Cardiff Beekeepers' Association; The Friends of Dyffryn; members of the Heritage Lottery Fund; and members of Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The visit was a chance to show off the amazing progress made in the past seven years and to celebrate the latest chapter in Dyffryn's life.

The royal couple were joined by the Lord Lieutenant and his wife for a tour of the house and gardens. Since the last royal visit in 2007, major renovation and conservation work has been carried out with significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council commented: "Dyffryn is one of the jewels in the Vale's tourism crown.

"We found National Trust to be the perfect partner to take the house and gardens on the rest of their journey towards excellence as a heritage attraction.

"The expertise held in the Trust, together with its broad membership and highly respected brand, gave us confidence that Dyffryn and the wider Vale will see a very substantial growth in visitors as a result of this carefully chosen partnership."

Dyffryn Gardens has been home to a number of bee hives for several years. With a lot of help from the Cardiff Beekeepers' Association, honeybees are being attracted to the area to help increase declining populations.

"We are very pleased with how the apiary has established over the years. We have lots of new members keen to learn the craft and we are very grateful to Dyffryn Gardens for the continued partnership with us. The Beekeepers' Association is growing in success every year," said Barbara Chick, Apiary Manager of the association.

Pupils from nearby St Nicholas Primary School made colourful butterflies to decorate the borders and presented the Duchess with a bouquet of flowers grown in the gardens.

Prince Charles and the Duchess also planted a tree dahlia in the 'exotics bed' of the gardens to commemorate 100 years since the dahlia trials held at Dyffryn Gardens – when 7,000 dahlias were planted in the gardens.

Later in the summer the dahlias planted by their royal highnesses will be in all their glory.

"It has been a fantastic day and I am very proud of the staff and volunteers who helped the visit go so well," commented Gerry Donovan, General Manager, Dyffryn Gardens.

Earlier, the Royal couple had visited the Galilee Chapel in Llantwit Major and enjoyed a walkabout, spending time having a chat with some of the local residents.

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In Business Update

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In Business Update

Create a dream living space...

WHEN it comes to adding flexible living space to your home, there can be little doubt that an orangery truly offers the wow factor.

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Gorseinon and Bridgend-based Securahome has been designing and building orangeries for many of its 20 years in business, and in that time no two have been the same.

Orangery expert Nigel Hocking explains: "We start the process by asking 'how do you want to use the room?' Once the ideas flow, the exciting part of creating something completely bespoke begins."

In these early stages, Securahome's designers create a 3D CAD model to help homeowners work through their ideas.

"Over the years those ideas have included wood burners vented through a pillar, fold away 'glass walls' created using bi-folding doors and ultra-modern floor to ceiling glass," Nigel adds. "Just about anything is possible."

Aesthetics aside, when you create your perfect living space, it's important to be able to enjoy it – whatever the weather. To ensure that's possible, high levels of insulation are a must.

Thanks to new technology, windows to the stars can offer the same thermal properties as a flat roof. Add in insulated walls, floors and Ambient windows and you'll still be comfortable in your dream room when the snow falls.

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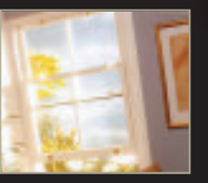

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Vale Show set to excite

FEW outdoor events in the Vale this summer will rival the thrills and excitement on offer at the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

This large established county show attracts hundreds of trade stands, spectators and exhibitors from all parts of Britain.

It is a diverse event, attracting an audience of over 20,000. A variety of stalls are set up on the field, with an enormous selection of goods on sale – from luxury cars to small gifts.

There is a livestock show, horse classes and a dog show.

New in 2014 is the Poultry Show, Fleece competitions, Vale Farmers Market Food Court, New Horticultural Show to mention but a few. There are over 250 retail stands with many bars and food outlets.

There is still time to be included; visit www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk for more information, or telephone 01446 710099.

Plastic, and your recycling box

VALE residents sometimes quiz our recycling team to clarify what types of plastic can be included in their kerbside recycling collections.

As a general rule, as long as it's a 'soft' plastic, please pop it in your recycling container. The exception is 'harder' plastics, such as those used to make plant pots, kids' toys or even the plastic used to make your recycling box.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, says: "Just as waste management and cleansing colleague Chris Holland shows, you will probably have a lot of packaging to recycle.

"From your bathroom – shampoo, shower gel and bubble bath – while kitchen items may include bottles, dairy containers and plastic egg trays.

"We please ask that you rinse items – just use the water at the end of doing your dishes."

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The different forms of plastic...

Chris Holland

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FREE EXCITING FAMILY EVENTS AT BARRY ISLAND

5 & 6 July
Beach Volleyball Championships

International Beach Volleyball players will compete in the Welsh International Open.
9am to 5pm each day

19 & 20 July
The Isle of Fire

Barry Island will once again transform into a fiery landscape. Explore Fire breathing flowers and scorching sculptures.
From 9pm each night.

26 & 27 July
Street Music Weekender

All That Jazz, The Bucket Band, The Rock Choir, Wonderbrass and Samba Galez. **From 12noon each day.**

2 & 3 August
Street Theatre Weekender

Shows start at 12noon each day with performances throughout the afternoon.

Sunday 10 August
World War I Commemoration Day

Barry Island Gardens will be home to a British WW1 soldier's encampment.
From 11am to 5pm

16 & 17 August
Sport, Art and Play Weekender

Beach sports, climbing wall, Play Village and graffiti workshops.
11am to 4pm each day.

23 & 24 August
Cinema by the Sea Weekender

SAT - THE GOONIES
SUN - MAMMA MIA
From 8:30pm each night

Bring a picnic, blanket or low backed chair. Deckchairs available to hire

Events take place on the prom or gardens and may change at short notice.

For more information please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com @visitthevale

ALL SET FOR BEST EVER WEEKENDERS FESTIVAL IN BARRY!

THE Barry Island Weekenders festival is returning to the Vale – with the Welsh International Open Beach Volleyball Championships opening the show on July 5-6.

The festival will include an Olympic-size centre court with a public seating area on the sand.

Weekenders' favourites, The Isle of Fire, will be returning with their evening shows on July 19-20, starting at 9pm, where the audience walks through a path of flames encountering fire-breathing flowers, scorching sculptures and entrancing trees.

The Street Theatre Weekender will feature on August 2-3, with performances starting at noon and lasting throughout the afternoon.

On August 23-24, the Cinema by the Sea Weekender will be showing classics *The Goonies* and Abba musical *Mamma Mia* from 8.30pm each night.

All events are free, and with the likes of musical maestros All That Jazz, Samba Galez and Wonderbrass on the bill, this year's festival promises to be the best one yet, the organisers say.

For more information on events across the Vale this summer, follow @visitthevale or go to www.visitthevale.com.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D833.

● **£2,000:** 492894.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £2,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 534730, 615319, 331172, 882934, 777792, 229707, 101361, 593668, 477207, 653089, 725764, 949237, 499726, 889920, 228743, 815772, 509030, 684790, 518137, 176324.

● **£5:** 211292, 394389, 865051, 286181, 783531, 753570, 794557, 329508, 173166, 963889, 585146, 881695, 228320, 304453, 367959, 614023, 349078, 799566, 256056, 400870, 806235, 240399, 833105, 255068, 404753, 671791, 592204, 758641, 337365, 452341, 112153, 726476, 262635, 897804, 282228, 561731, 711929, 323805, 365486, 204471, 234716, 710630, 245298, 287318, 411711, 312988, 521991, 949393, 597476, 170322, 291882, 619207, 331481, 236603, 867034, 647667, 971029, 611, 1346, 1637.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Garden open

THE following garden is open to the public on Saturday, July 13 as part of the National Gardens scheme:

Cyncoed & Llanishen Gardens, Cyncoed, Cardiff, Glamorgan, CF23 6NA

This interesting group has rapidly expanded from two to five gardens; three of the four suburban gardens were carved out of woodland in the 1930s when the houses were built and they are surrounded by trees.

The fourth house was originally a Victorian cottage. These gardens have a multitude of shrubs, climbing roses, clematis, hostas, succulents and ferns and many unusual plants.

The owners include sculptures and features in their gardens and spend time on landscaping: two of the gardens have been maintained by the same family owners for nearly half a century.

The group is providing inspiration to educators nationally and internationally. Open: Sunday, July 13 (12pm – 6pm), admission £4.

Please note: due to unforeseen circumstances Mount Cottage, 166 Fidlas Road will not be open as part of the group, as published in The Yellow Book, 2014. All other gardens will open as planned.

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EVERY Friday, Topstak will be sizzling burgers on their Big Green Egg barbecue for diners to eat in or takeaway; made from locally sourced beef, the burgers are accompanied by homemade relish produced in Topstak's cafe.

The foodie reputation of the Gallery Cafe at the Topstak showroom at Llandow near Cowbridge is growing. The café team is always looking for new ideas, and recently attended a cooking and foraging course at Kate Humble's 'Humble by Nature' in Monmouth.

The delicious variety of cakes are cooked on one of the Esse cast iron ranges as displayed in the showroom and are a real treat, with the coffee made from organic Fairtrade beans.

"We have had great feedback since launching our new menu at our cafe, especially for the freshly baked cakes and light lunches," explained Topstak director, Lynda Pedersen.

"It's good to see so many regulars and new people visiting the Gallery Cafe –who browse around the artwork and cookware store, or just want to have a good coffee and read of one of the daily papers."

Contact Topstak on 01446 771 567 or www.topstak.co.uk.

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Out and About with The GEM

Favreau's Chef cooks up a charming little dish!

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

WHILE he's built up a steady resume as a dependable director – with the likes of *Iron Man* and its sequel, *Cowboys & Aliens* and *Elf* under his belt – Jon Favreau is also an actor of some renown, having lined up in the likes of *Swingers, The Break-Up* and *Couples Retreat.*

For his latest film, Favreau stars, directs and also writes, in *Chef*. Sadly, not a movie adaptation of Lenny Henry's mid-90s sitcom, Favreau plays Carl Casper, a high-profile chef who finds himself out of work after an ill-advised rant against a prominent critic (Oliver Platt).

Desperate to reconnect with his love of cooking, and with his career in freefall, he embarks on a road trip in a food truck along with his son Percy (Emjay Anthony) and fellow chef Martin (John Leguizamo) which sees Carl get both his career, and his family life, back on track...

The parallels between Carl Casper and his real-life alter-ego Jon Favreau are many; both achieved early success in a low-key setting, moving up to a point where they are on the top of the tree, only to find distaste from the same critics who lauded their earlier work.

While Favreau has yet to undergo the Casper-style meltdown that sees the titular chef of the piece reconnect with his passion in the first place (or, to be fair, face severe critical brickbats), you sense that, given this comes from Favreau's pen, the similarities are there on purpose; and much like Casper, Favreau reconnects with his passion here.

Chef is a charming low-key delight that ambles along pleasingly, without ever threatening to come off the rails, or go in a different direction.

The story moves in a predictable arc, there are very few moments of conflict or snatching victory from the jaws of success, elements that may deprive the film of any tension but they do provide moments of real beauty.

Casper's relationship with his son is fraught but not unworkable, his relationship with his ex-wife is easy going, and people seem happy to bend over backwards to help a man who, at the start, isn't the most appealing of men.

These are all facets that may ring slightly untrue through the prism of real life, but in this world they are just narrative beats that you happily go along with, and Favreau's strength is writing characters that resonate, not just Casper but his son and his best friend and fellow chef.

They're hardly fresh off the production line but Favreau imbues them with personality and spark. Given Favreau has self penned this work, it also allows Casper to have a on/off love interest like Scarlett Johansson and an ex-wife like Sofia Vergara, but, hey, why can't a writer stretch his creative abilities once in a while?

Visually, the film has a loose feel, the road trip narrative that takes up the remaining two-thirds of the film giving Favreau ample opportunity to lens long roads and sunsets and savour the delights of the more colourful and appealing parts of America, while it is recommended that you eat before you watch this film, as the lingering close-ups of the delicious food are likely to induce hunger in all but the strongest willed of people.

An all-star cast, many of whom have worked with Favreau before, take a back seat to the main trio of Favreau, Leguizamo and Emjay Anthony, and all three deliver strong turns. While it's a pleasure to see Favreau on the big screen, he has more to work with here than his usually comedic turns and he comes up trumps, with Leguizamo a satisfying foil to him, a role that is little more than garnish in food terms, but one that comes with zip and zest.

Most impressive is Anthony, the young actor more than holding his own with his more experienced screen counterparts, and showing a maturity beyond his years with a well-rounded performance.

The only missteps Favreau makes are in a conclusion that, although fitting, wraps itself up all too neatly, lacking the weight and build-up it really deserves, and the air of idealism that sometimes comes across cheesier than one of Casper's toasted sandwiches; all in all, however, *Chef* is a delicious little offering, subtle and satisfying.

VERDICT: Jon Favreau's return to low-key roots proves a huge success, as *Chef* is a delightful film that engages and impresses. Favreau's roles as actor, writer and director are well served, the performances are pleasing and you are defied not to feel hungry come the credits. *Recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012).

Gathering of authors in Barry

WELSH authors gathered at Barry Library on Saturday, where Vale AM Jane Hutt met with local author,Penny Richards, who has published a book of short stories, which was on display.

They are pictured here with Barry Library organiser, Ally Singleton.

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CURTAIN GOES UP

BARRY Comprehensive School presents its Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat school production on July 8, 9 and 10 at 7pm. Call 01446 411411 for tickets.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for June 26, 2014 is:
Anthony Golebiowski
who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:
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The 39 Steps is adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan, from the movie by Alfred Hitchcock, and an original concept by Simon Corble & Nobby Dimon

In association with The Cowbridge GEM, Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Association (CADS) is pleased to offer TWO FREE TICKETS to the July 15, opening night performance of The 39 Steps, soon to show at Market Theatre.

The winners will be invited to stay afterwards and be given an opportunity to meet the cast, crew and director. The show is a hilarious spoof of the 1930s thriller, complete with chases on The Flying Scotsman, scenes from the London Palladium, genius villains, femmes fatale and an exceedingly handsome hero with a superb pencil moustache. To enter, just choose the correct answers to the questions below, and email them to cadschallenge@gmail.com by midnight, July 8 (Tuesday), entitling your email "39 Gem Challenge." If you have already bought two tickets, we'll refund them on the door. The winners will be notified after a random draw by email. Good luck!

Question 1: Our production of The 39 Steps is the 2005 adaptation by Patrick Barlow. Which of the following partnerships adapted it for the stage 10 years earlier?

a) Andrew Lloyd-Webber & Alan Ayckbourn b) Simon Corble & Nobby Dimon c) Tim Rice & Elton John

Question 2: The original novel by John Buchan featured Richard Hannay (a prototype James Bond) as its hero. How many Richard Hannay novels did Buchan write in total? *a) Five b) Ten c) Three*

Question 3: The Forth Bridge is one of many famous locations in the play. When did it open? *a) 1 May 1880 b) 10 July 1850 c) 4 March 1890*

Question 4: Another location in the play is the London Palladium. How many seats does this theatre provide?
a) 3400 b) 2200 c) 4300

If you haven't been before, our small but perfectly formed theatre is at the far end of the Old Cattle Market (off The Butts, the road that turns off Cowbridge High Street beside the Market Place Restaurant, CF71 7AS). The bar will open at 7pm, curtain rises 7.30.

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AUTISM HERO SCOOPS AWARD

KERRY BAKER, a teacher at Ashgrove School has won 'The Extra Mile' Award at the Autism Heroes Awards when the Vale Resort was this year's location for 'Holly's Ball' on Saturday (June 21).

A parent of one of Kerry's pupils nominated her for the award. This was Kerry's nomination, which read:

Kerry Baker

"My son has had a very difficult time in his early educational life. He has developed many negative associations with learning and this has prevented him from developing and achieving, resulting in many difficult and complex issues affecting all areas of his life. Since going to Ash Grove School, he has had Kerry as his teacher.

"She has shown extraordinary motivation, commitment and determination in helping him and our family face so many difficult challenges.

"She has always done this with a positive approach and with great enthusiasm. She has created many learning opportunities for my son introducing the curriculum to him in a creative and varied way which has resulted in positive changes in his self esteem and development and improved his quality of life in so many ways.

ABOVE: Kerry Baker wins 'The Extra Mile Award".

"She has developed a project called Coastal Connections which along with other children at school he is part of. This gives children with ASD opportunities to access learning through beach-based activities, outdoors where they are often less anxious and more able to learn and have fun.

"Through this project, my son has learnt academically, developed life and social skills, to care and clean up the environment, and even learnt to surf which he never had the opportunity to do before.

"Earlier this year, she paddled from Mumbles Bay to Penarth Pier on her surfboard, along with another colleague, to raise funds for this project.

"She has shown amazing personal commitment to helping our son and supporting us, taking many hours outside of the school day to talk through many difficult situations which he/we have faced. Kerry has shown commitment and support way beyond anything we have ever experienced before.

"She has created so many opportunities and experiences helping to improve my son's skills and self esteem, recognising his potential – a true Autism Hero!"

Sandy is set to Sparkle again!

FORMER Barry Island Red Coat, Sandy Sparkle will once again be performing the songs of the forties at the 'Back to 44' evening of nostalgia, at Barry Island Community Centre.

It will coincide with the Barry Wartime Weekend, ensuring a mix of living historians wearing period dress, and Barrians who can remember the songs when they were the latest hits.

Sandy will be supported by singer-trumpeter, Ricky Hunter and all-round forties entertainer Arthur Cook, of 'Blitz & Pieces'.

Event organiser Ade Pitman explained: "Last year's 1940s evening of nostalgia, entitled 'Back to 43', as it was the third event of its kind, had such a great atmosphere that we're holding a similar event again this year.

ABOVE: Former Barry Island Redcoat Sandy Sparkle.

"As is traditional, ticket prices are reasonable at just £4 for OAPs, £6 in advance and £10 on the door, with all the proceeds going to support the Barry at War group."

The 'Back to 44' evening will take place at Barry Island Community Centre on Saturday, August 30, from 7pm until 11pm. For details, contact www.forties-events.co.uk or by calling Ade on 07930 874161.

The pros and cons of AI

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

WE have Smart-phones and TV – they seem to us to be able to do things without being told.

Well, they seem to, but they really do not. They have no free will and can only respond to instructions, albeit in an impressive way and at high speed.

Computers are fast, but only carry out instructions they have been given by the programmes they store or have been given by the user.

The 'intelligence' part has been provided by the programmer or the user. The machine cannot think.

It would be of more use if they COULD think. It would have been very useful to the code-breakers of Bletchley Park where the first serious thought about Artificial Intelligence (AI) was made by Alan Turing, the mathematician who designed equipment that helped speed up the deciphering process.

He foresaw the potential power of computers and that they might one day become intelligent, but at what point could they be considered so?

He devised a test, appropriately called the Turing Test. In the test a human interrogator would be in one room and would communicate using a keyboard and screen to two unknowns in another room; i.e. one person and one machine.

From the keyboard 'chat' the human would have five minutes to figure out which was which. If the unassisted machine was able to respond in a manner indistinguishable from the human responder then it could be considered to have a degree of AI.

Naturally, the test has been somewhat controversial and the conditions tweaked and the results questioned, but it is still used as a spur for AI development.

It illustrates how complex and intelligent the ordinary human brain is and how hard it is for a machine to match it.

Your state-of-the-art laptop doesn't even get started. The mainframe computer that beat a chess grandmaster won because it was able to look further ahead at a large number of possible responses to each move.

Now a supercomputer claims to be the first ever to pass the Turing Test.

It convinced 33 per cent of the judges that it was a 13-year-old Ukrainian boy who spoke English as a second language and clearly dodged some of the questions (as do humans). The threshold for passing the test in the University of Reading 2014 competition was convincing 30 per cent of the judges.

The situation is complicated by the test being somewhat loosely defined by Alan Turing and being applied under slightly different rules in various places around the world. AI experts are not even sure it will ever be a truly valid definitive test anyway.

Impressed as I am by computers and their improvement with mind-blowing rapidity; surely, failing to fool 66 per cent of the judges does leave room for improvement.

We are closed until September but you can see us on July 15 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth from 7.45pm, when we hold an open evening for you to visit and find out how we could help you.

See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

HOWARD DESMOND

The story of early flight in America

AT the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society falls on Friday, July 4, which is American Independence Day, David Ephraim will be giving an illustrated talk to members on the development of aviation in America to the present day, starting from 1840.

That was the year when a retired railway engineer called Octave Chanute from Chicago made a glider with 12 wings – six layers on each side – which many less optimistic people would have declined to try out; but Chanute had a go and survived, earning himself the soubriquet of 'the father of American aviation'.

His ideas influenced the Wright brothers, who pioneered power flying in the US with the first heavier-than-air machine in 1903 which they patented and jealously guarded.

Wilbur Wright wrote: "It is our view that morally the world owes its almost universal use of our system of lateral control entirely to us."

Their patent 'war' seriously held up the development of American aviation. But two world wars and ruthless military competition accelerated invention: Boeing's Stratofortress, the biggest jet bomber of its time, the Delta Dagger armed with nuclear bombs…

Today, there's wing-walking: "We won't tell your mother" says one of many adverts advertising the increasingly popular sport or 'experience'. You can do it in the UK too for about £450 a go!

Penarth Aviation Society meets at the Conservative Club in Penarth at 7.45pm on the first Friday of each month. Visitors are welcome. Further information from David Ephraim on 01446 721321.

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Commissioner hears of older people's concerns in Penarth

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team visited a club in Penarth that is helping older people to stay fit and active, as well as giving them a chance to have their say and share their concerns about the issues that matter to them, which include the NHS and public transport.

Sarah Rochira's team met with members of the Penarth Ageing Well Club, which has become a prominent local voice and presence in the community.

Their recent activities include a Zumba demonstration at Llantwit Major Fair, singing as part of an inter-generational choir at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff and being used as a focus group by Penarth Town Council, who garnered their strong views on local issues.

The club meets weekly at Glyndwr Community Centre, with exercise sessions including Scottish dancing, Rubicon Dance, Zumba and Salsa. Members also take part in regular singing sessions with Goldies Cymru and listen to speakers, with recent topics including the future use of Penarth Pier and famous women from the area.

The Commissioner said: "While the main aim of the club is ageing well through participating in exercises and activities, alleviating loneliness and isolation, and keeping members informed on issues, it also gives older people a powerful voice.

"The group recognises that people who are 50+ are true assets to their community, having had careers and varied and interesting lives. It encourages members to share their experiences as well as having their say on the issues that affect their lives."

The Commissioner praised the work of the committee – chairwoman Elsie Wolahan, plus Chris Collins, Patricia Shirley, Shirley Preston and Beryl Fitzjohn – whose hard work has enabled Penarth Ageing Well Club to go from strength-to-strength. It was set up less than two years ago, but membership has already grown to over 30 people.

Group members talked to the Commissioner's team about the issues that matter most to them. Many of these centred on the NHS, with members worried about having a voice when in hospital, if they have no family to visit them, and the lack of facilities for respite care in the Vale.

They were also concerned about older people being seen as a homogenous group by health services and felt more consideration should be given to an individual's needs.

Public transport is also a key issue for group members who described how buses now stop on estates around Penarth, but do not go near enough to many community halls and other places they would like to visit.

The club meets every Wednesday at Glyndwr Community Centre, Penarth, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

VALEWAYS WALKS

Sunday, July 6 at 2.30pm, 'St Brides, St George and St Fagans,' meeting at St Fagans Church.

July 9 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Park visitor centre.

Sunday, July 13 at 2pm, 'some of the best views in the Vale', starting at Peterston-super-Ely footbridge.

July 15 at 9.30am, Awn am Dro, Y Bontfaen lyfrgell/Cowbridge library.

July 16 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

The Davidge family reunion at Hensol draws relatives from far and wide, even Bermuda!

SIXTY members of the wider Davidge Family of Cardiff, including The GEM's very own stalwart Nancy Davidge from Llangan, came together for a family reunion on Saturday 21 June at the Vale Resort and Spa, Hensol. The weather was glorious, the setting and welcome at the Vale Resort was exceptionally warm and inviting, reminding all how the twelve children of Ted and Maud Davidge, formerly of Tin Street, Splott, later Broadway, Roath, Cardiff, have stayed so close over the generations and despite the imposed separation of geography.

The oldest photograph of the whole family was taken around 1937 and shows the twelve surviving brothers and sisters from the 16 children born to Ted and Maud. A warm and close-knit family, it continues to thrive to this day. Arthur at 87 and Phil at 79 are the babies, the two surviving members of the family and set the example for enjoying this get-together.

The family group spanning four generations, ranged in ages from months old to one just starting her tenth decade. The family is spread widely through the UK and abroad; probably the furthest afield was Margaret Davidge Ingham, who had travelled from Bermuda specially for the occasion. With so many people travelling from Hampshire, Dorset, London, Worcester, Manchester, Warwickshire, Hereford, Buckinghamshire and of course throughout Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, timing was crucial if we were to get maximum benefit from our time together. It could not have gone better.

The team at the Vale Resort know how to make you welcome and the setting at the restaurant in the golf clubhouse was perfect, complemented by the food and the service… all thanks to the Vale! Even the group photograph was captured by a member of the Vale team… we sense a second career blossoming.

Four hours of reminiscing, laughing, teasing and suddenly it was time to go… we all departed smiling yet with a tear in our eyes… glad to have met… sorry to part… happy to meet again…

"Hiraeth" may be impossible to explain in English but anyone watching the family depart would understand it instantly. **MH**

OPPOSITE: This photo was taken around 1937, and shows the 12 surviving brothers and sisters of the 16 children born to Ted and Maud Davidge.

‘We can keep living ... just keep breathing in!’

BETH’S 50TH BIRTHDAY MESSAGE by CAROLINE SARLL

IT was the birthday party that wasn’t supposed to happen. As cancer sufferer Beth Margetson gathered with sixty or more of her family, friends and supporters in Porthcawl’s Seren Fach last Saturday, to celebrate her 50th birthday, she addressed the intimate and emotional gathering with her usual fighting spirit:

“I’ve just got hold of all my notes – that was a job and a half, mind – to take with me on my trip to the Hyperthermia Clinic in Hanover – and I’ve read them from cover to cover. It’s there in black and white: the doctors didn’t think my case was treatable and they gave me six months to live. And look – two years this September since my diagnosis – and I’m still here.

We don’t have to die from things that are wrong with us. We can keep living. Just keep breathing. In. And out... I can tell you I intend to keep breathing for some time!”

Beth’s words, delivered with her trademark off-the-cuff drollery, were met with resounding applause – and more than the odd misty eye. Her closest friends and allies joined her 86-year-old father Peter, for whom Beth cares, her husband Chris and her 16-year-old daughter Ffion, to celebrate this watershed birthday for Beth, who has become an inspirational figurehead for cancer sufferers both locally and across Wales.

Her tremendous efforts to receive the treatment she badly needed – the drug Afinitor – and her dogged battle to highlight the inequity facing Welsh patients, has touched the hearts of many. Due to the fundraising efforts of the last nine months, Beth was not only able to access the Afinitor refused her by the local health board, but is now able to embark on a three week course of treatment at the German clinic.

“All of you here have played a huge part in keeping me going,” said Beth. “Without all your love, your support, your kindness, your humour – I wouldn’t be alive today. I really can’t thank you all enough. I want to thank those people who are coming out with me, to support me and to look after Ffion. I am so grateful to you all. And when I come back from Germany, I really do believe that I’ll be fine, that my liver tumours will have gone into remission”.

With her usual determination and willingness to take on the establishment, Beth continued to talk of her ongoing crusade: “No-one’s going to tell me how long I’ve got to live. I hope I’ve shown you all that we don’t have to have people telling us we can’t have treatment. What we’re doing here in Wales is not good enough. We can go to Germany. We can go to America. I haven’t even ruled out Mexico!”

More resounding applause, a swell of cheers, the clinking of glasses – and an interjection from the back of the room: “Can I just say please, that YOU have kept US going Beth!” More claps and cheers of approval. Amidst the rousing oratory and the throngs of well-wishers, Seren Fach owner Julie Connick bustled to and fro ensuring that the packed crowd (“I think we’ve made the Guinness Book Of Records for the most people in a tea shop!” quipped Beth) were fed (extremely well) and watered (lovely cocktails).

“Beth told me it was going to be a small soiree, with just a few people! We had to get in extra chairs in the end. Beth has garnered so much support. She’s a girl and a half – and such an inspiration to us all.”

More and more plates of food were delivered and a superb cake, made by Beth’s friend Nicola Thomas, was presented to the birthday girl, who duly blew out the candles with great gusto, before grabbing the microphone and entertaining the assembled crowd with her karaoke skills. Balloons and bunting bearing the number 50 swayed in the much-needed breeze (thanks, Julie, for the welcome fan!) and boundless bonhomie and Beth-inspired optimism permeated the extremely warm atmosphere.

It was hard to believe that this was a celebration Beth never thought she’d experience. Hard to believe at all, as she darted around the room, that Beth is seriously ill.

Finding time to talk to all her guests, flitting from table to table, Beth also fetched food for her elderly father and for the rest of her family. “Even though she’s ill, Beth is still helping other people. She never stops,” observed Beth’s cousin Jacqui, who was there with husband Jeff and her brother David.

“Beth is not like the rest of us. We’re all quiet and she’s the outgoing one. She has such tremendous fight in her. She’s so positive and is such an example to us all. She’s trying to help others as well as herself. She’s set up such a store of goodwill over the years, with all the good deeds she’s done. And now she’s reaping the benefits”.

“This is such a milestone for Beth. I’m the same age and an old schoolfriend of Beth’s – the class of ‘64. We’re all turning 50 this year. A landmark for us all, but no-one more than Beth,” said Jill Nugent.

Brandishing another plate of the much-debated pasty pie (“I thought it was corned beef pie.” “Don’t be daft, mun, it’s corned beef tart,”) baked lovingly by Beth’s good neighbour Janet Sage, Beth found time to stop for a chat with me. How was she feeling about turning 50 – and about the imminent trip to Hanover?

“To be honest, although I’m obviously so glad to see this birthday, I still thought I’d be as miserable as sin when I woke up today – 50! But actually, I feel more like 40!

“I can’t wait for Germany now – even though I haven’t had the support of all the medical profession. I think people are afraid of doing things like this, of taking control of their own treatment. They feel a bit bullied, I suppose. I’m like the pariah, really. Out on a limb. But it’s my choice – and I know that the treatment is going to help me. Our medical system here is so paternalistic”.

Beth flies out with Ffion and old friend Beverly Poulton for support. Staunch supporters Kay Sheridan and Philippa Horton from Balkwills will join them. I will be there the second week, along with Beth’s old friend Linda. The third week, midwife Angela Hopkin, who worked alongside Beth for years and is a close friend, continues the support chain.

“I’m going in a supervisory capacity,” said Angela with a wry smile. “I’m the sensible one,” she added, with a twinkle in her eye. “Honestly now – Beth is such an inspiration. She was during her midwifery years and has continued to be throughout her teaching career. I’m so glad to be going with her to help.”

Dealing with an illness like Beth’s clearly takes its toll. Beth has already confided in me that she has moments blighted by darkness. Yet, somehow she continues to rally, her buoyant personality and radiance rubbing off on everyone she meets. This was blatantly evident on Saturday night, as Beth skilfully and adeptly ”worked” the room, giving time (and food) to everyone.

Her dad, Peter, sat quietly in the corner, being attended to by Beth, Ffion and other family members. Watching a child suffer – however grown-up – is hard on a parent.

“I was so shocked the day Beth told me she had found a lump in her breast. She’s a good girl and she doesn’t deserve what’s happening to her now. It seems that if you do good in life, you just get kicked up the backside. Beth’s not a moaner. She’s like her mother, who was very tough. When she was ill, she had a bone marrow transplant without any anaesthetic. Beth is made of the same strong stuff.”

Husband Chris will remain at home to work and to share the care of Beth’s father with neighbours Janet and John (“We’re like the children’s books, aren’t we?!”) along with Pat Hill, a former midwife and Beth’s one-time boss. Chris shared his father-in-law’s sentiments: “She is a fighter. This week has been crazy, getting her ready and then the party. But I know this treatment is going to work.” Squeezing Pat’s arm, Beth said: “Pat’s been like a mum to me since my mum died. I love her to bits.” Pat reciprocated the squeeze. Wordless gestures can speak volumes.

As veteran entertainer Peter Lake – in fine voice – serenaded the crowd, spirits were high. The support in the room was palpable, like a benevolent balm, gently urging this next stage in Beth’s battle to bring the remission everyone hopes for.

“I have faith,” said Beth’s dad, Peter. “I pray for her every night.”

As I write this piece, Beth, Ffion and Beth’s old friend Beverly Poulton have arrived safely in Germany. I receive a text from Beth on the first day of her treatment: “The doctor is absolutely fabulous, he says not to worry – he can do a lot for me. He said he likes stroppy patients like me! I told him God had sent me here and he agrees. They have made me feel that anything is possible. It’s so uplifting: I feel great!”.

A few hours later, my mobile rings: “Caroline. It’s Beth.” The tone is jovial. “Can you help me tell this taxi driver something? He can’t understand me. I want him to take us somewhere where I can buy some saucepans. I told him we can speak Welsh, but he’s not getting it. I keep repeating SOSSPANS, very slowly, but it’s not working!” I intervene – luckily I speak fluent German – and the problem gets resolved.

How has the treatment been, I ask Beth, sensing that she is on top Beth-form. “Fabulous. It’s amazing. I’ve had localised hyperthermia and some infusions and they will do full body hyperthermia tomorrow. The doc says he thinks he can heal my liver.”

I put the phone down and dwell on Beth’s extraordinary – and endless – pluck and brio. It can’t be easy being heated up to over 40 degrees. In that moment, I am grateful for the contrasts that life presents. The juxtaposition of the critical and the banal in all our lives. There is “our” Beth, being virtually cooked for three weeks, in order to save her life. And what does she ring me about? Saucepans to cook her organic potatoes. A girl and a half, indeed. Good luck from us all Beth. We’re all thinking of you. ***See you next week.***

Images by TOM PRICE

Beth with husband Chris and daughter Ffion.

Trail talk with the Penarth and District Ramblers

SETTING off in warm sunshine, leader Barrie and his nine companions began the gradual haul from the valley bottom up over Mynydd Llangynidr to reach the Chartists' Cave, making several refreshment stops en route because of the heat.

This cave was used to store home-made weapons which were used by the Tredegar Chartists as they attempted to seize Newport in November 1839 as part of the riots that occurred to gain a fair system of voting for the common man.

Following moorland paths to descend into the beautiful Dyffryn Crawnon valley, they paused for lunch overlooking Tor y Foel. A minor road led to a hard climb through fields and a split in the camp, when three walkers joined Barrie for the trek over Tor y Foel, while the rest joined a lower path with Phil and with the two teams reuniting, they continued their journey down to the Brecon and Monmouth Canal for the short walk back to Llangynidr and the reward of a cool drink in the Red Lion pub.

Nine walkers joined William on an annual mid-summer madness trek along the Three Castles Walk in brilliant weather beginning from the delightful village of Skenfrith, where they viewed the pretty village church dedicated to St Mary before setting off. Tracks, roads and climbs through lush fields and woodland led the group to White Castle, the second of the three Norman castles they would encounter, built for military purposes and probably the best preserved with its huge strong round towers for protection.

After lunch, in the shade of a huge beech tree, the group crossed farming land and the River Trothy to eventually reach St Mary's Church at Llanfair Gilgoed before crossing cropped fields to climb Graig Syfyrddin, where they were rewarded with stunning views of the Black Mountains and Skirrid before descending to the sleepy village of Grosmont. After a quick visit to the ruined castle and the pub they climbed up to woodland before heading gradually back downhill through fields into the Monnow Valley and returned to their start.

On July 5, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 12-mile hard walk at Clydach and Felindre; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On July 6, meet at 10am at Cogan for a six-mile moderate walk at Lisvane; contact Pam on 029 2025 5102.

On July 8, you are invited to catch the 0721 train from Cardiff Central to Church Stretton for the 15-mile moderate walk in the Shropshire hills back to the Craven Arms and the train journey back home; contact William on 01446 747239.

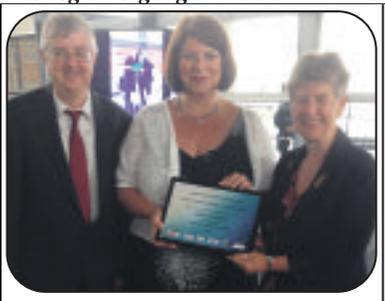
Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

CLAIRVOYANCE

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, Barry is 90 years old this year and is holding a special evening of clairvoyance with eight mediums working at Barry Rugby club, Colcot on July 11.

Starts at 7pm, admission £10 at the door; for more information contact 01446 746670.



Dinas Powys woman's Health Service award

HELEN WATKINS of Dinas Powys (pictured above) won the Partnership Award at the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Unison staff achievements ceremony in the Senedd last week.

It was hosted by the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, and attended by the Health Minister, Mark Drakeford, who praised all those who had won awards as a result of their dedication to the Health Service in Wales.

FAMILY FUN AT MESSY CHURCH!

Outdoor worship at All Saints' Father's Day celebration.

ALL Saints' Church, Penarth held a special Father's Day Messy Church – focused on the story of David and Goliath.

Full advantage was taken of the summer weather to hold the whole event outside in Victoria Square – from the arts, crafts and other themed activities to the Messy Celebration (worship) and Messy Meal.

Over 135 people of all ages enjoyed participating, including a passing dog walker who returned with her family to join the fun.

This month's activities looked at the things we can do with God's help, even if we are small, from making 'loom band' bracelets with crosses to using pebbles to play hopscotch.

Dawn Casey led this month's worship, including an interactive retelling of the story, a David and Goliath rap and a prayer, using five fingers to represent David's five stones.

The next Messy Church event at All Saints' is on Sunday, July 20, starting at 4pm. All are welcome. For more information visit allsaintspenarth.org.uk.

Poignant songs recall the Great War

ON Saturday, July 12 the Windsor Gardens at Penarth will resound to the sound of the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band playing music from the World War One period.

Making use of the Victorian bandstand, the band will play a medley of songs, tunes, marches and hymns.

It is hoped that many of the songs and hymns, such as 'Pack up Your Troubles', It's a Long Way To Tipperary' and 'Eternal Father Strong to Save, will be familiar enough to encourage people to sing along with the band (words will be provided).

This event is being organised by the Friends of St Augustine's to mark the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. Chair of the Friends, Tricia Griffiths, said: "We hope that people will come along and whilst enjoying the music, also recall with respect and honour the enormous sacrifices made by so many men and women".

There is no charge for this event, but donations towards the Roll of Honour project in St Augustine's church will be welcome.

The band starts playing at 3pm and will play until 4.30pm with a short break. If the weather is fine, it is suggested that rugs, picnics and even sun hats are brought along! The Vale of Glamorgan Council has sponsored this event.

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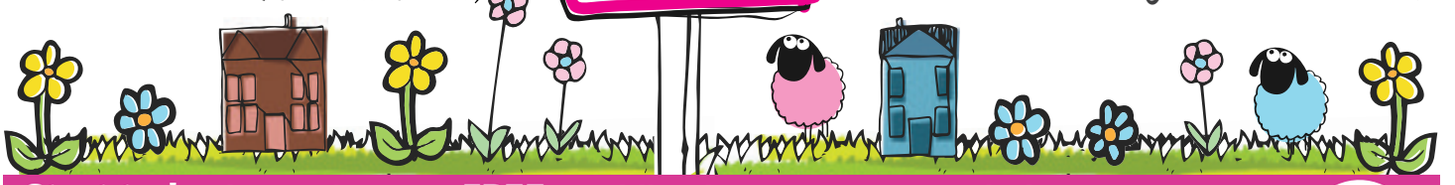

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FAMILIES FEELING THE BURN AT MARGAM PARK!

ABOVE: Jeremy and Louise McKee from Perclose, Dinas Powys, second overall, with Burn Series organiser Maria Leijerstam.

SPORTING variety was the order of the day at Margam Park's Mini Burn on Saturday: this unique innovative event, created by Maria Leijerstam, Guinness Book of Records holder and organiser of the Burn Series, attracted competitors from six years old to over 60 as pairs and teams battled through a thrilling combination of sports.

This included a 3km run, 5km or 10km mountain bike, 1km kayak and 2km orienteering course all in the picturesque mountainous landscape of the deer park. Despite an early morning and later afternoon downpour, the sun shone brightly on the competitors, as it has every year at Mini Burn.

The overall winners were Danny and James Ridley from Ffordd Erw, Caerphilly; second came Jeremy and Louise McKee from Perclose, Dinas Powys and third in the family section were Harvey and James Braun from Kings Road, Cardiff.

"It's very refreshing to find an event where a parent can race with their offspring – I wish there were more as we both really enjoyed it," said Duncan Milward shortly after completing the course.

If you fancy a go at this fantastic family event, check out the next event at www.burnseries.co.uk.

***Section winners were**: Male pairs: 1. Danny and James Ridley 2. Dylan Thomas and Kevin Skyrme 3. Greg and Joel Matthews .*

Female pairs: 1. Eleri Rogers Pontprennau and Sarah Evans , Heath 2. Imogen Harding and Bethany Marson 3. Anya Donian and Lisa Luttig

Mixed Pairs: 1. Jeremy Holmes and Louise McKee 2. Chris Moore and Sarah Burns-Moore 3. Gary and Lisa Monk.

Family under 10: Ethan Davies and Tracy Davies 2. Adrian and Seth Jones 3. Aled Rees and Gruff Rees.

Family over 10: 1. Harvey and James Braun 2. Geraint Evans and Josh Evans 3. Duncan Milward and Lydia Milward.

Harvey and James Braun, who won the family over-10s, and came third overall.

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Bulls beat the Titans

BRIDGEND Blue Bulls remain in the hunt for a home play-off place after a 66-34 victory over Newport Titans.

Orpin opened the scoring in the match, crashing over from close range following a patient opening set from Bridgend.

The Titans hit back immediately twice through Rhys Meredith but a duo of tries from Rosser and Thomas gave Bridgend control of the match before a scintillating solo run from Symons created further daylight between the two teams.

The second half started with the teams going tit for tat. Thomas and Rosser again finding holes in the defence to score but Dean Higgs scored a hat trick to keep the Bulls on their toes.

Mafi crossed twice in quick succession, responded to by Craig Wood before debutant Grabham got in on the act with a quick double between another Symons score.

Grabham raced down the touchline two times in a row, with Symons finishing off in similar fashion.

MD

Lifeguards back on the beach

RNLI lifeguards were kept busy in recent weeks, as families opted for the sunshine on local beaches.

This Saturday, the charity's lifeguards will return to a further five beaches, including Southerndown.

RNLI lifeguards will offer a daily safety service over the summer season. Working in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the charity's lifeguards will be ready at their posts from 10am-6pm every day until Sunday, September 7.

For more information on how to stay safe on the beach this summer, visit the RNLI website www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety or download the charity's' beach safety mobile app.

Barry 01446 747878 **Penarth** 02920 705528 **Roath** 02920 464744
Whitchurch 02920 692626 **Canton** 02920 222344 **Pontcanna** 02920 225700
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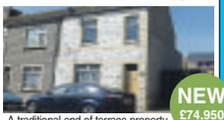
allen & harris

Commercial Road £74,950

NEW £74,950
A traditional end of terrace property in need of refurbishment ideally situated close to shops, schools, train station and many local amenities. Accommodation comprises; hallway, living room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom with separate W.C and three double bedrooms.
Barry

Barren Hill £430,000

A beautifully presented and sought after detached home set within the picturesque village of Penmark. The property is set upon an imposing, elevated plot which boasts far reaching and untouched countryside views. Benefits include a driveway, gallery landing and two en-suite bedrooms. Viewing Advised.
Penmark

St Brides Way £100,000

A well presented modern semi detached home ideally situated within easy access of shops, schools, public transport and road link. Accommodation comprises; hallway, kitchen, living room, conservatory, two bedrooms and a bathroom.
Barry

Greenbanks Drive £234,950

A well presented detached family home situated in a cul de sac position off Colcot Road. Surprisingly spacious living accommodation comprises; hallway, shower room, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three double bedrooms, a single bedroom and a larger than average family bathroom.
Barry

Cliffwood View £315,000

A well maintained detached bungalow occupying a larger than average plot and situated in a cul de sac position in the sought after Garden Suburb area of Barry. Living accommodation comprises; hallway, cloakroom, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, four piece bathroom suite and three bedrooms.
Barry

Blenheim Close £200,000

An extended and well presented three bedroom semi detached home situated in a cul de sac position on the popular Highlight Park development. The property benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, off road parking and a sunny rear garden.
Highlight Park

Church Road £69,995

NEW £69,950
A well presented first floor apartment with two bedrooms and superb Barry/countryside views. The apartment boasts a spacious lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and a three piece bathroom suite. The apartment also benefits from a communal garden and secure allocated parking.
Barry

Bryn Y Gloyn £259,950

NEW £259,950
This FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM detached home overlooks the lagoon at Rhoose Point. With THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen/breakfast room and two en suite shower rooms this well proportioned property would make a great family home. Other benefits include a double garage and sizeable rear garden.
Barry

Nant Talwg Way £235,000

REDUCED
This Individually Built Detached Family Home Is Adjacent to 'The Millwood' offering access to PORTHKERRY PARK in the WEST END of Barry. Accommodation Offers Three Reception Rooms Plus Four Further Rooms & Three Double Bedrooms & Attic. Offered For Sale With NO ONWARD CHAIN!
Barry

Hollyrood Close £148,000

A semi-detached bungalow set upon a generous corner plot and located in the Highlight Park development, offering a regular bus service, doctors surgery and Tesco supermarket. Benefits include PVCu double glazing and no ongoing chain. Viewing is highly recommended.
Barry

Romilly Avenue £220,000

NEW £220,000
A traditional semi detached home located in the sought after West End location. Accommodation briefly comprises; hallway, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom and lounge to the ground floor. To the first floor are four bedrooms and family bathroom.
Barry

Romilly Road £259,950

REDUCED
A sought after three storey home located in the west end of Barry offering five bedrooms. The property is situated close to local amenities including the boutiques of the High Street and transport links such as Barry train station allowing convenient access into Cardiff City Centre.
Barry

Dylan Crescent £89,950

An end of terrace occupying a generous sized corner plot. Accomodation compromises; lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. GCH & DG.
Barry

Lynton Court £149,995

NEW £149,995
We are acting in the sale of the above property and hace received an offer oif £150,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before ecxchange of contracts takes place.EPC Rating:B
Canton

Galleon Way £155,000

NEW £155,000
Offering stunning views over the Bay and much of Cardiff is this much sought after 9th floor apartment situated on the rarely available Galleon Way, The Waterquarter. Comprising a living room with open plan kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and ensuite shower room. Allocated parking space.
Canton

Ffordd Gardthorne £134,950

A purpose built top floor apartment located on Lloyd George Avenue. The property offer living accommodation comprising: two bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and en-suite shower room. The property offers electric heating, double glazing and an allocated parking space.
Canton

Admirals Landings £115,000

A purpose built first floor apartment with water views. The property is being offered to the market with no ongoing chain and viewing is recommended. Living accommodation comprises: hallway, lounge/fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. Benefits include electric heating and allocated parking.
Canton

PUBLIC NOTICE

51 Lynton Court, Chandlery Way, Cardiff CF10 5NF. We are acting in the sale of the above property and hace received an offer oif £150,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before ecxchange of contracts takes place.The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is B.
Canton

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2 Reception Rooms
Good Order Throughout
£134,950 E48

Westwood Rise, Barry
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Stunning Conservatory Extension
Beautiful Landscaped Large Garden
£294,950 D62

Heol Y Dryw, Rhoose Point
4 Bedrooms
Conservatory
Sea Views
£285,000 tbc

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Heol Cilffrydd, Barry
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Excellent Order - No Chain
£104,950 C77

Cornwall Road, Barry
2 Bedrooms - No Chain
Lounge With Balcony Off
First Floor Bathroom/WC
£105,000 D56

Solva Close, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Lovely Order Throughout
Generous Rear Garden
£119,950 C72

North Walk, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Sunny Rear Garden
Immaculate Order Throughout
£129,950 D64

Glamorgan Street, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Newly Refurbished
West End Location
£144,950 F37

Sherbourne Close, Barry
4 Bedrooms (Very Large Plot)
Backing Farmland, Large Extension,
Garage With Workshop/Summer House
£315,000 D62

Murlande Way, Rhoose
End Link Extended 1 Bed House, Lounge,
Kitchen, Extension Sitting Room/Bedroom,
Private Garden, Allocated Parking
£95,000 D61

Nurston Close, Rhoose
3 Bedrooms
Beautifully Refurbished
No Onward Chain
£208,500 D58

Cilgant Y Meillion, Rhoose Point
4 Bedrooms - No Chain!
Immaculate Order Throughout
Conservatory Extension
£224,500 C71

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bryn Y Gloyn, Rhoose Point
Chris Davies Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £250,000 for: 16 BRYN Y GLOYN, RHOOSE POINT, CF62 3LD. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Chris Davies Estate Agents, 29 Fontygary Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DS. Telephone number: 01446 711900 before exchange of contracts
£259,950 D64

Cilgant Y Meillion, Rhoose Point
Detached 4 Bed Home
3 Reception Rooms, Conservatory
Double Garage
£275,000 D65

Maes Y Gwenyn, Rhoose Point
4 Bedroom Detached Home
Luxury Kitchen
Double Garage & Parking
£280,000 D68

Fontygary Road, Rhoose
Detached 4 Bed Home
Super Large Plot
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Fontygary Road, Rhoose
4 Bedrooms & 3 Receptions
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Large Southerly Rear Garden
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GCH. D59 - £495 PCM

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E52 - £525 PCM

Cwrt Y Cadno, Llantwit Major.
Two Bedrooms, Conservatory
Driveway.
D70 - £550 PCM

High Street, Barry.
Completely refurbished,
Modern kitchen, Shower.
D74 - £550 PCM

Heol Ger-Y-Felin, Llantwit Major.
Two Double Bedrooms,
Fitted Kitchen, Enclosed Garden.
D61 - £550 PCM

Cwrt Y Cadno, Llantwit Major.
Two Bedrooms, Shower,
Driveway. C79 - £575 PCM

Queen Street, Barry.
West End Location,
Three Bedrooms,
Shower. E49 - £575 PCM

Monmouth Way, Llantwit Major.
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen/Diner,
Conservatory.
C76 - £650 PCM

Showle Acre, Rhoose.
Three Bedrooms,
Lounge/Dining Room
Enlcosed Rear Garden.
C73 - £650 PCM

Clos Ogney, Llantwit Major.
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£365,000 D68

Lon Lindys, Rhoose Point
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Excellent Order Throughout
Detached Double Garage
£375,000 C70

Property Update

Are you thinking of capitalizing on the current strong market? Supply is short, demand is strong so please call Andrew on 01446 709945 for a free no obligation chat and valuation.

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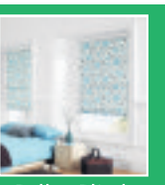
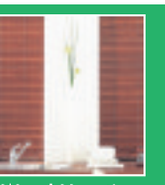

Roller Blind

Aluminium Venetian


Wood Venetian

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Formerly of Nash Point
Lighthouse car park (famous for her Welsh Cakes), would like to say
Thanks
to all her family & friends for her 80th Birthday Party held in the Star at Wick - also Emily for the fabulous food.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday

Paul

"Hands on the handlebars!"

from Gillian, Thomas, Geoffrey, Nicholas & Rosa

Caleb Coleman-Williams

5th July 2014

Happy Birthday to our beautiful son

Lots of love
Mama & Daddy xxx

Caleb Coleman-Williams

Happy Birthday

TO OUR LITTLE ANGEL "BOO"

1 Year old on 5th July
Lots of love & hugs & kisses
Nana & Grampy Creed
Aunty Kelly & Uncle Chris,
Uncle Ben & Aunty Jocelyn
Uncle Dan & Aunty Claire xxx

Happy Birthday

Stenna Margaret Gray

5 July 2014

Lots of love from Mummy, Daddy, big brother Mckenzie & family xxx

21st Birthday Wishes

SAM JONES

With lots of love, Mum, Nana Pat, Nana Marlene, Grandad George and all the families xxx

21st Birthday

SAM JONES!

on 7th July

Lots of love, Carrinna, Keturah, Colin and the rest of the clan!

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'Love you to the moon & back'

Happy 80th Birthday

Thelma Cooke

Love from

all your children, grandchildren & great grandchildren xxx

Thelma is well known by many for her 'Nash Point Welsh Cakes'.

Family Notices

COTTLE

Suddenly on 21 June at home, Roy Stanley, aged 80 years of Colwinston. Beloved husband of the late Elsie. Loving father of Michele, Belinda, Debbie, Elizabeth and loved father in law, cherished grandfather, great grandfather and brother.

Roy will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday 8 July. Service at Coychurch Crematorium Crallo Chapel where family and friends please meet at 11am. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

MILLAR
Freda

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital, much loved wife of the late Luke, loved mother of Jane and Edward, adored granny Freda of Inigo and Solly. Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church Llanblethian on Friday, July 11th at 2pm, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers, Greengate, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

DAVIES
Andrew James (Andy)

Suddenly at his home after a long illness on June 20th. Andy of Dyffryn Place, Barry. Loving son of John and Julia, loving brother of Alun, Martin, Huw and Gareth, loving uncle to all his nieces & nephews.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service & committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday July 11th at 11.15am.

Family flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to the Alan Richens Epilepsy Unit, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff CF14 4XW.

HILL
Gareth

(formerly of Borough Close, Cowbridge)

Suddenly on Monday June 23, Gareth peacefully passed away at home in Treoes. Beloved son of Betty and the late Peter, brother of David, Carol and Vanessa, will be sadly missed by his nieces, nephews and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday July 8, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

MORTIMER
Edith Margaret

Suddenly on June 29 at Milsom House, St. Athan, Margaret of Rhoose, beloved wife of the late Stan, dearly loved mother of Jeff and mother-in-law of the late Marlene, loving Nan of Lisa and Andrew, great grandmother of Kieran and Katelyn.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday July 9, service 1.30pm at St. Peters Church, Rhoose, followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Family Notices

English
Mark

Peacefully on 22nd June in hospital, after a long illness fought with dignity and strength, Mark aged 53 years of Llantwit Major, devoted husband of Rachel, adored and proud dad of Charlie, Jamie, Mark and Peter, a loving grandad to Callum, Archie and Poppy.

Mark will be greatly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Funeral service at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 7th July at 3pm (where all please meet). Family flowers only please, if wished donations for the British Heart Foundation (cheques only please) may be forwarded to WA Brown & Son, Funeral Directors, Llantwit Major.

McBRIDE
Eric Armstrong (Mac/Buster)

Passed away peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 28th June, Mac, beloved husband of Lorna, cherished father to Trudy and loving grandfather to Alexander and Sebastian. Will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at James Summers & Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service on Saturday 12th July at Lavernock Court Chapel at 10.30am and thereafter at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Alzheimers Society or Diabetes UK, c/o the Funeral Director.

WILLIAMS
John Bernard Salusbury

Peacefully on Wednesday, 19th June at Milsom House, St Athan, John, beloved husband of the late Mary (May). Dearly loved father of Vaughan, Brian, Gerald, Diane, Mark and Jane and a loving grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at Southlands Funeral Home until the service on Thursday, 3rd July at St Andrews Church, St Andrews Major at 11.30am, followed by interment in the Churchyard at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Further enquiries to Duncan Thomas of Evan E Thomas & Sons, Southlands Funeral Home, South Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3DA, telephone number 01656 783383.

KELLY
Gwendoline (Molly) Nee Trigg

Peacefully in the Princess of Wales Hospital on June 16th, aged 86 years. Beloved wife of the late Melville (Reg), much loved mother of Olwen and Rowena, mother-in-law of John, loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, July 9th at 1.15pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired through a retiring collection at Coychurch Crematorium for Ward 6 Princess of Wales Hospital.

JONES
Malcolm Basil

Suddenly but peacefully at home with his family, Malcolm, beloved husband of Cynthia, much loved father of Martyn and Kristine, adored Bampa to his grandchildren.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral service at St Michael and All Angels Church, Colwinston on Monday, July 7th at 11am, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

LEWIS
Paul

Jill, Jane and Julia would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their support, kind messages of sympathy, beautiful floral tributes and donations to Mesothelioma UK.

It was of great comfort to us that so many of you attended the funeral to say goodbye to our beloved Paul. He will be greatly missed. Thanks to the Reverend John Binny for his moving and uplifting service, to our wonderful Marie Curie nurse, St. Athan Surgery, Llandough lung nurses and the doctors who cared for Paul and W James and Sons Fonmon. God bless you all.

GOULD
Wendy Elizabeth

(1935-2014)

Wendy, dearly beloved wife of Alan, caring and loving mother to Alison, Jonathan and Sarah, ever loving grandmother of Anna, Elie and Joseph - died at the Princess of Wales Hospital on 16 June 2014 after a long and debilitating illness that she endured with great courage.

A private funeral took place at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 27 June 2014.

Vivian Blick
(Viv)

Margaret and family wish to thank all friends, neighbours and relations for the kindness shown during the recent loss of Viv.

The many personal messages are a great comfort to all the family.

Special thanks to Ronnie and Maureen for their constant support.

Birthday Memories

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

"Your life was a blessing
Your memory a treasure
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure

'My Angel'
Missing you Mammy xxx

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

Missing you more than words can say

Yvonne and family xxx

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Panthers face tough opposition!

PORTHKERRY PANTHERS under-10s faced their biggest challenge of the season when their mums donned pink kits and graced the turf.

After much fun and frolics the mums wilted and succumbed!.

Many thanks to all for arranging the event and to Nicola Porter for arranging for the Panthers to be featured on a BBC Wales 'Week In Week Out' documentary, which aired on July 2.

AB

Under-13s' end of season presentation

BARRY TOWN under-13s held their presentation recently, the winners were:

Top goalscorer: Brooklyn; manager's player: Lewis; player's player: Owain; most improved: Morgan.

The squad (pictured above) are: Ethan, Lloyd, Luke, Brooklyn, Morgan, Tom, Lewis, Taylor, Lewi, Owain, Ben, Will, Matthew, Craig, James; missing from picture are Josh and Daniel.

Thank you to Gavin Chesterfield, David Cole, all the parents and families for their support.

CH

Point-to-Point awards are presented

POINT-to-Point awards which will be presented at the south Wales And Monmouthshire area awards dinner at the Holiday Inn, Newport, Gwent, on July 12. Contact John Llewellyn on 07971283262 for details.

2014 TROPHY WINNERS

JOCKEYS: Welsh Champion – Men (DR Thomas Perpetual Trophy). South Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, John Mathias.

Welsh Champion – Ladies (B Thomas Perpetual Trophy). South Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, Jodie Hughes.

Sport of Kings Perpetual Trophy – Most wins at any point-to-point meeting: winner, John Mathias.

Bill Jones Memorial Trophy – Gentleman resident in south Wales (Mon) area with most wins within that area: joint winners, James Tudor and Nick Williams.

Novice Rider, south Wales(Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, Sean Bowen.

Novice Rider, south Wales (Mon) area: winner, Anna Metekohy.

HORSES:

Champion Horse – (Spillers Perpetual Trophy). Most wins in south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, *Rosie's Peacock* (Mr DH Llewellyn, south Pembs).

Champion Mare: (Elfyn David Memorial Trophy) south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: joint winners, *Chesnut Annie* (Miss B Roberts, Ystrad Taf Fechan) and *Millys Delight* (Mr J Nicholas, Ystrad Taf Fechan).

Maiden Horse: (George L Willams Memorial Trophy) south Wales (Mon) area: joint winners, *Canshetrain* (Mr R Jones, Glamorgan), *Once In A Lifetime* (Mr L Price, Ystrad Taf Fechan) and *Repeat Business* (Mrs J Bird, Llangeinor).

Champion Older Horse: (Lord Charles Trophy) 12 years or over – south Wales (Mon) and west Wales areas: winner, *Chesnut Annie* (Miss B Roberts, Ystrad Taf Fechan).

Champion Open/Hunter Chase Horse: (Peter Curry Memorial Trophy). Most wins in Open Point to Points/Hunter Chases, south Wales (Mon) area horses: winner, *Findlay's Find* (Mr PB Miles, Ystrad Taf Fechan).

Champion Pentyrch Qualified Horse: (Lyndon Evans Memorial Trophy): winner not allocated.

VALE SCHOOLS HOST PARAGAMES EVENT

Over 200 pupils from Ashgrove, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Ysgol Maes Dyfan, St Helens and St Nicholas Primary Schools took part in the Vale Schools Paragames at Cardiff International Sports Stadium on Wednesday, June 25.

The day was organised by teachers from Ashgrove, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn and Ysgol Maes Dyfan and supported by Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer.

Each pupil took part in numerous events throughout the day that included sprints, long jump, and a range of throwing events. The events were organised so pupils of every ability could take part in a competitive setting.

Pupils from St Cyres School in Penarth volunteered on the day to help with the running of events and supporting the athletes when taking part in the activities.

Every pupil received a goody bag from the Welsh Rugby Union who provided inclusive activities throughout the day for the athletes whilst they were waiting to compete.

The Vale of Glamorgan Play Department was also present providing face painting and glitter tattoos for everyone at the stadium.

Coun Gwyn John, Cabinet Member for Sport Development, and Disability Sport Wales performance athlete Ashleigh Hellyer attended to view the events taking place and present the winning pupils with medals."

Simon Jones said: "This is the second year the Paragames have taken place with great success. It is brilliant to see that every pupil is catered for and have the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. I would like to thank the teachers for organising such a fantastic event; a lot of hard work has gone into the day and the success was mirrored by the reaction of the pupils taking part."

If you are looking for more information about Disability Sport and Physical Activities over the summer holidays please contact Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council, on 01446 704728 or email sljones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Neijia classes

RECENTLY the Swimming Dragon School has opened two classes teaching Chinese Neijia - but what is Neijia?

Neijia is the internal martial arts of China. The three main arts are Bagua Quan, Xing Yi Quan and Taiji Quan, where Quan means martial art.

The main class is in a large hall on a Monday morning at 10.30am at the Awel y Mor Centre, Wellfield Avenue, Porthcawl, and there is 7pm evening class at the Bryntirion and Laleston Community Centre. Mt Pleasant, Bridgend.

Why not give it a try, you would be made more than welcome.

JJ

Weekend of woe for the Athletic

BARRY Athletic Cricket Club suffered a weekend of woe due to the weather on Saturday and a comprehensive defeat against Penarth in the Welsh Cup on Sunday.

On Sunday at Penarth, Barry were asked to bat first and were soon up against as they were reduced to 29 for 2 after the loss of Goodway (1) and Provis (8); the score soon went from 43 for 3 to 55 for 8 as Barry lost the wickets of N. Baker (1), A. Baker (0), R. Jones (29), P. Murphy (0), S. Jones (3) and S.R. Jones (3).

This left captain John Gee, Peter Hellyar and Daffyd Frost to show some resilience and add 50 for the last two wickets.

Gee became the ninth wicket to go with the score on 74 for a fine 9 and a partnership of 19 with Hellyar; Hellyar was then joined by Daffyd Frost as they added 31 for the last wicket before Hellyar was last man out for 21 and Barry all out for 105.

Barry then made a brilliant start by taking the wickets of Rhys Morgan and Richard Skone for 0 and 21 respectively to leave Penarth 31 for 2, Frost taking both wickets and showing his promise and improvement throughout the season finishing with 2 for 25.

Penarth cruised to the 106 they needed in the 22nd over and an emphatic eight wicket win, this being the third time this season that Barry have been bowled out for scores between 105 and 129.

This weekend the 1st XI are away to Pontymister, the 2nd XI are at home to Pontymister and the 3rd XI are at home to Cardiff Gymkhana on Sunday.

On Saturday, August 16, Barry Athletic Cricket Club are holding an open day for the community, former players and captains, children and new players to come along; also it will give those interested in sponsoring the team a chance to come and see what the club do, what facilities they have and how the club plan to move forward in the coming years.

MR

Romilly bowlers earn Munro Cup victory

BARRY Romilly travelled the short distance to Barry Island to play Barry Athletic in the Munro Cup on Wednesday, June 25.

On a pleasant summers evening and playing on a green in superb condition the game began with Romilly edging to a five shot lead 18 – 13 after five ends.

The Romilly players were finding the conditions ideal and were bowling well and as a result progressed to a 46 – 23 advantage by the 10th end.

The Romilly rinks of Mel Newman, Fred Phillips and Mike Doyle were all holding good leads with only Clive Collins' rink struggling against the Athletic's rink skipped by Dave Snelling.

The game continued to go in Romilly's favour right to the end, winning comfortably by 69 – 51 to take 12 of the 14 points on offer.

CML DIVISION 1

After a good start to their league season Romilly were away to Gelli Park in the Rhondda who in previous seasons had always proved difficult to beat but with confidence high the 'Rom' were more than hopeful.

After five ends Romilly were finding the Gelli green quite tricky but found themselves behind by only five shots and at end ten 'The Rom' had fought hard to take a two shot lead into the second half.

With the weather remaining good despite the forecast of heavy rain and thunder Romilly players were bowling excellently and by the fifteenth end had moved 16 shots clear with three rinks ahead.

Over the final six ends Romilly maintained their form to hold their sixteen shot advantage to win 82 - 66 and take 12 points for a superb victory.

CML DIVISION 3

Barry Romilly 'A' side have had a poor start to their league season mainly due to a number of players becoming unavailable and having to play against teams expected to do well in their division.

On Saturday they welcomed Ynyscynon BC from the Rhondda and another difficult afternoon was expected; this proved the case as by halfway Ynyscynon had moved into a clear lead, 25 – 42.

There was no respite for the Romilly players as the visitors strolled to a 42 shot win, 54 – 96, winning on all rinks.

FP

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club

RESULTS for Monday, June 30:

1st John Evans & Steve Burgoyne 65.97 per cent, 2nd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 62.50, 3rd Anne Hughes & Lou Edwards 56.94.

Also this week there was a presentation of prizes to our new club champions for 2014, Graham Norris and Barrie Waite; congratulations on a well deserved win!

ALL THE FAMILY FEEL THE BENEFIT AS THEY TAKE PART IN MARGAM MINI BURN

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE 'Margam Park Mini Burn' took place on Saturday, June 28, with families keen to take part.
The event was created by Welsh adventurer Maria Leijerstam and as you can see was blessed with ideal weather this year.

School's grading success

RECENTLY the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon-Do held their second colour belt grading of the year.

The grading took place at the Victoria Park Community Centre, where 24 students from as young as five years of age sat the exam. The grading was conducted by Master Ron Thomas, 8th Dan, and consisted of all aspects of this Korean martial art, patterns, set sparring, floor work, focus and power, finishing with theory test.

The grading was a success with all 24 students passing their grading, four of whom achieved top grade 'A' passes: Lucia Cunningham, Jessica Blackley, Ellie-Ann Osborne and Emily Miles, with Lucia Cunningham the deserved winner of the club's grading shield.

Successful candidates were: promoted to 10a Orange stripe: Deagan Stockford and Caydee Allen; promoted to 9th kup Orange belt: Charlie-Jade Rogers, Kiera Watson-Wood and Emily Miles; promoted to 7th Kup Green stripe: Courtney James and Leo Cummins; promoted to 6th Kup Green belt: Maddison Allen, Thea Cunningham, Ethan Andrus, Cameron Evans; promoted to 5th Kup Blue stripe: Brooke Baker and Lucia Cunningham: promoted to 4th Kup Blue belt: Jessica Blackley, Ellie-Ann Osborne, Kurtis James, Martin James and Katie Watkins; promoted to 2nd kup Red belt: Joel Wells; promoted to 1st Kup: Cody Jacobsen, Cian Allen, Daniel Quigley, Jake Quigley and Demi Baker.

Pictured with their instructors and grading examiners are the successful candidates.

For further information phone 01446) 406372 or visit www.cadoxtontaekwondo.weebly.com. **RT**

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club (June 24):

First, Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones 61.67 per cent; second, Mick Green and Tim Barsby 60.42; third, Mark Roderick and Denis Mottram, 57.50.

Lyn Matthews and Alan Jones also won on handicap.

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GEM columnist Brian Lee looks back on a long career of over half a century...

CONFESSIONS OF A RACING REPORTER!

GEM columnist Brian Lee, who has been singing the praises of the Vale's Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan in this newspaper long before the Racing Post and other national papers cottoned on to the fact that we had trainers in this part of the world who could hold their own in the world of horseriding, looks back on almost a half-century of reporting on the Welsh horseracing scene.

My point-to-point memories go back to April 5, 1952, when I attended the Pentyrch Hunt fixture just outside of Cardiff. I was a 16-year-old factory worker and the horses and riders racing over a makeshift course in the picturesque Welsh countryside – not to mention the bookies shouting the odds – made a lasting impression on me.

I was hooked, as they say, and soon became a regular fan travelling by bus to all the local meetings.

When I complained to the editor of *Horse & Hound* back in 1966 that point-to-points in my neck of the woods were not being covered by the magazine, I received a letter from their hunt-racing correspondent Hugh Condry asking me would I like to report on meetings for him.

If my memory serves me right, the first meeting I reported on was the Llangeinor Hunt Steeplechases as Penllyn, Cowbridge and where Bill Jones rode his 100th winner on Owen Stephens' *Double A*. Soon I was being asked to report on other meetings for such publications as *The Sporting Life*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Express* and T*he Western Mail*. Point-to-Point racing is known as an amateur sport but like some enthusiasts, I feel it has become too professional and that a lot of the fun has gone.

Take the time a clerk of the scales forgot to bring them along. The riders ended up weighing out on a set of bathroom scales hurriedly fetched from home!

The late Gordon Lewis (left) talking to Bernard Hill (centre) and Brian Lee at Llangeinor Hunt Point-to-Point in 1987.

We all know that riders are amateurs and after I had written something not too complimentary about one of them he phoned me and threatened me with a solicitor's letter and ended his call by saying: "After all, it's my living you are writing about." Amateurs! Incidentally, that particular rider is a great friend of mine now and I have a lot of respect for him.

Judges have a difficult time without a photo-finish camera to assist them. Once, when a judge invited me on his haycart, there was a close finish to one of the races, so imagine my surprise when he turned to me and asked which horse I thought had won!

I will never forget the rider who stopped his horse from winning at a meeting held at Lower Machen some years ago. After jumping the last in front, he slowed his horse down and was beaten a good one-and-a-half lengths.

However, the judge named him the winner just the same and even though the stewards tried to get him to change the result, he was having none of it.

Contrary to popular opinion, point-to-point correspondents do not spend all their time knocking back drinks in the sponsors' tent.

On wet and windy days, when almost everyone has taken refuge in their parked cars, they can be found pencil in one hand and soggy racecard in the other jotting down the results and interviewing owners and jockeys.

In almost half a century of reporting on the Welsh hunt-racing scene, I have been reported to the Jockey Club on several occasions, been banned from two meetings but turned up anyway.

On the one occasion I turned up I was standing near the parade ring, just yards from where the stewards were standing, when Evan Williams, who was a jockey back then, arrived at the course and on seeing me shouted out so that the stewards could hear him: "Hello Brian, what are you doing here? I thought you were banned.'" Evan has a wicked sense of humour.

I have been threatened by bookmakers on more than one occasion and even been accused of having an affair with a 'fellow' (female, I hasten to add) racing reporter.

However, it has all been great fun and I have met and interviewed many interesting people. Some have been rogues of the turf but others have been lords, sirs, ladies, royalty and, on one occasion at Bouillons, a countess!

While two film actors that come to mind that I met at point-to-points in the Vale were Leslie Phillips, of the Carry On films, and Bernard Hill, who played the captain of the ill-fated *Titanic* in the blockbuster movie of the same name.

Sports clubs share £5,640

SEVEN organisations in the Vale have shared funding from the Community Chest scheme for coaching courses and purchasing equipment.

Barry Athletic Tennis Club is using the money to encourage more adults to participate in their Cardio Tennis programme, and residents in Wick have joined together to form a village cricket club, using their share of the funds. Caerau Vale Trampoline Club, Barry Town Saint FC and Red Dragon Junior Netball Club have also been awarded funding to send coaches on training courses.

Funding has also gone to the Intersensory Club to purchase additional trikes for their cycling project at Jenner Park stadium, and also to Wick RFC to provide facilities for disabled athletes to undertake throwing activities.

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, June 25 - First Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, second Emer Disley and John Whateley, third Peter Bugden and Geoff Barnes.

Friday, June 27 - First, Wendy Williams and Marjorie Morris, second Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, third John Evans and Tony Disley.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays, from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced where assistance is readily available. The best placed improvers for June 26 were Arthur Harvey, Mike Williams and Stuart Davies.

A new series of lessons is planned for the autumn and those interested should contact John Evans on 01656 880372 in order to register their interest.

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Cogan's festival sets up great day

Neville Southall and Craig Bellamy recently attended Cogan FC's football festival.

COGAN FC recently held their football festival for under-6s through to under-11s.

This first event for a few years saw the focus on making it affordable for all teams, as entry prices were kept to a minimum to get as many children playing as possible.

Teams travelled from all over the country to take part, even camping over, making a full weekend of the festival.

The day could not have gone any better, even with a rain shower in the morning and one in the afternoon, but this didn't stop the youngsters playing very attractive football.

The event was supported by the Neville Southall Foundation and the famous Welsh goalkeeper had a good walk around, chatting to parents and children. Another Welsh legend present was Craig Bellamy, and to have both at the event was great for the kids. LS

COACHING THE COACHES!

TWELVE coaches from clubs across the Vale recently attended an analysing your coaching course, as part of the Vale Council's creating confident coaches programme.

It is one of several courses run by the its sports and play development team, which aims to improve the level of coaching across the Vale.

Many other courses will be taking place in the future as part of the creating confident coaches programme, including first aid and coaching the whole child.

Bowlers slip in Munro Cup

CADOXTON'S team for the trip to Sully for a Munro Cup match was made up of mainly 'A' side players.

They were only successful with the rink which was skipped by Gordon Davies.

Scores: R Byrne, D Hammond, M Curtis, H Craven 9 - 17 E Pryer, G Neadley, A Thomas, D Curtis; E Heppenstall, D Fanning, D Evans, G Davies 18 - 16 C Michael, J Bryan, H Thomas, A Rees; S Clement, A Prince, S Clarke, D Brook 7 - 28 P Neale, J Hubbard, S Dibble, D Edwards; J Stacey, I Heppenstall, H Hellyar, I Robertson 16 – 22 A Smith, D Curtin, H L Jones, C Best. Final score: 50 - 83.

CADOXTON V CARDIFF WEST END - ML4

Cadoxton were the visitors to Fairwater, the new venue for Cardiff West End.

Regrettably the home side were short of players and they had to play the match with triples, which included the loan of one of Cadoxton's players. Cadoxton easily won the match 14 – 0.

Scores: S Clarke, J Crout, D Brook, H Craven 17 - 3¾ K Davies, R Pritchard, J Dunscombe; P Swannick, R Harding, P Ellis, K Chedgzoy 29 - 3 D Pugh, F Permintela, R Jerrett; D Evans, G Davies, D Kuhnell 19 - 9 P Tyrell, J Stacey, M Royle; H Hellyar, A Carpenter, I Robertson, J Jones 21 - 6¾ A Camp, T Watts, K Twine. Final score: 86 - 22½.

CADOXTON 'A' V ROATH PARK - ML5

Once again, the Cadoxton 'A' side were short of players for their ML5 match against Roath Park.

Originally, when the team was selected, they had a full team but unfortunately some of these pulled out for various reasons.

Subsequently, they were well beaten once more.

Scores: G Powell, R Morris, G Solomon 6 - 34; E Heppenstall D Fanning, A Turner 14 –29; S Clements, A Prince, R Cole, M Curtis 8 –46; R Byrne, D Hammond, D Tuck 7 - 26. Final score: 35 - 135. **DK**

Cottrell ladies enjoy a glorious afternoon

The winners are presented with a Bonsai tree.

COTTRELL Park Ladies Section enjoyed a glorious afternoon recently, starting with a nine-hole Texas Scramble competition playing both the Mackintosh and the Button Gwinnett Course.

The winning team for the Button Scramble were Patricia Haines, Carol Bunyan, Jan Cosby and Patsie Smith. The winning team from the Mackintosh Scramble were Julia Evans, Mary Davies, Rusty Fone and Sandra Collin.

Nearest the pin winner on the Button course second hole was Margaret Thomas.

Nearest the pin winner on the Mackintosh course for both fourth and eight-hole was Sandra Collin.

The winning teams were presented with a Bonsai tree from organiser Lorraine Pointon-Bell with a barbecue supplied by Spiro Caterers. **ES**

Your chance to see the world's top bowlers in action!

AS part of Commonwealth Games final preparations, New Zealand and Ireland will be competing against two teams from Wales, in a final test match at Barry Athletic and Dinas Powys Bowling Clubs.

This will also include the visually impaired and para bowlers.

On Thursday, July 10, there are three-hour practice sessions starting at 9am (men morning and ladies afternoon).

The test match takes place on July 11 with ladies matches all day; on July 12 there are men's matches all day, with finals on July 13 (lunchtime finish). Play will start at 9am on each day.

This is a really exciting event for Wales as part of our final Commonwealth Games preparations, so we hope to see as many interested spectators as possible and help the Welsh teams to victory in Glasgow 2014.

For further information, contact Hazel Wilson, hazel222@hotmail.com, or telephone 01686 6688. **CC**

VALUABLE WIN FOR BARRY CENTRAL

THE Barry Central team entertained the Murch at Gladstone Gardens.

Looking forward to their first win in the CML this season, there was an air of expectancy in the team prior to going on to the green while having to wait for a while to allow the rain to clear.

With the opposition arriving with a few players short and the weather being as it was, both captains decided that the game should take place over 15 ends.

There was quite a difference in the rink scores during the afternoon and after a slow start, within a few ends, skips H Spencer and D Goddard started to pull away from their rivals and with Goddard's team scoring a five on the fourth end and a six on the ninth end, their game was as good as won.

Similarly Spencer's rink picked up 15 shots after six ends without reply which gave them an a great start with the Murch team unable to catch up.

Things were slightly different on the other two rinks with captain J Wathes and T Kaged finding it hard work to keep up with the opposition.

Wathes' rink only managed to score on three of the ends played while Kaged's rink had a similar struggle with excellent bowling coming from the opposition.

However with the other two rinks well up Central came out winners by 66 shots to 52 to gain a valuable 10 point win.

I would be grateful to all our friends in the area to ignore the comments that the Central mens team are having a meeting to disband. This is totally incorrect and we are looking forward to completing our fixtures for the rest of this year. **GT**

App aims to help golfers

THE Vale Resort in Hensol has launched a free bespoke golf app, which acts as a 3D-GPS distance device, making it the first club in Wales to have CGI flyovers of both their courses to help players improve their game.

Available to download from Google Play and the Apple app store, the Vale Resort golf app benefits from pin-positioning technology.

"The flyover technology allows golfers to watch the journey to the green through aerial shots of each hole, offering insight on how the course should be best played, before teeing off.

"We're delighted to offer our bespoke app as a free downloadable tool," said the Vale Resort's golf manager Clive Coombes.

"This technology revolutionises how golfers can prepare before heading out to play a round on either of our championship-winning courses.

"Visitors can take a look at the quality of the courses before they book giving them extra peace of mind. We're the first club in Wales to have the full system installed – the GPS app, the Golf Flyover and access to the system in our golf buggies and on screens at the resort."

The app and its GPS technology is also available on fixed screens secured to the resort's golf buggies. It informs players of the size of the green on each hole, trees, water hazards, bunkers and paths that can obstruct the path of play.

Mr Coombs added: "Through our app, golfers can see hole-by-hole what's on offer, be it the mixture of wide and narrow fairways, water features or wooded areas – it's a unique system of technology which sets the stage for anyone coming to visit us."

The Wales National Course and the Lake Course have been host to a number of PGA golf tournaments including several Wales Seniors Open tournaments and Wales Challenge tournaments.

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Fugitives escape from the grip of Centurions!

ON a day dominated by the weather, Sully Centurions were unable to overcome a strong Newport Fugitives side and were well beaten.

The home side batted first and the match was only one over old when the first rain interruption happened. When play resumed Fugitives got to grips with the conditions quicker than Sully and the top three set up a platform for a substantial total.

Bridges (61), Thomas (40) and Jones (113) put the visiting attack to the sword. The pick of the Centurion bowlers was Ben Callow, with 3 for 51, but all of the bowling figures took a bit of a hammering. Fugitives finished on a formidable 287 for 6 after their 50 overs.

More rain delays followed and eventually Centurions were set a revised target of 220 from 30 overs. Openers Tom Edwards (58) and Pavel (28) got stuck into the task in hand, but of the remaining batsmen, only skipper Lloyd Bruce, with 23 and Owain Sullivan (12) reached double figures.

Shae Ellis, batting at number three, could only manage 8 on his return to the club. Unfortunately a string of no less than four ducks followed as Centurions suffered a momentous collapse, eventually ending on 161 all out.

SECONDS IN LAST GASP VICTORY

Sully Centurions 2nd XI beat Newport Fugitives at Burnham Avenue in a match that went right to the final over.

The visitors batted first and had reached 81 for 4 when a lengthy rain break interrupted play - remarkably, all four of the wickets went to Jake Griffett, who bowled superbly throughout, returning figures of 4 for 29.

On resumption Hales (46) and Ingram (24) shared a crucial 49 run partnership before both fell with the score on 104. Tom Pascoe claimed 3 for 30 in his 6 overs and the promising Emma Davies bowled her 9 overs for just 20, taking the final wicket, with the help of a smart catch behind the stumps from Ben Spear, with the score on 134.

After tea Centurions' innings was to prove rather slow going, with veteran opener Dave Sylvester opting for caution.

At the halfway stage the score was just 39 for 2, with the hosts well behind the required run rate. Rikki Griffet (19) and Mark Burnett (14) injected some urgency into proceedings, with skipper Sylvester continuing to plough his own furrow at the other end.

It was all down to the final over with three runs required - the winning runs were fittingly supplied by Sylvester, with three balls remaining.

A nailbiting finish, with true 'tortoise and hare' characteristics!

MF

DINAS LADIES ENJOY TOURNAMENT SUCCESS!

DINAS POWYS ladies rolled up to the South Wales Ladies tournament with a postive attitude.

However, after Laura May Lewis gave the village team the vital goal in a one sided opening match, the thoughts of the Dinas ladies changed.

Following two draws it was down to the last group game - win and they were top of the group and into the semi-finals. They couldn't have asked for a better start as Taylor smashed home from 20 yards in the first five seconds.

Dinas peppered the Hafod FC goal as their keeper made countless saves from Brooke Howells, Lewis, Sam Saunders, Emma Thompson and Jo Jones. At the other end young Rachel Harold had to be alert between the sticks.

The game finished 1-0 to Dinas and went onto the semi final where they faced Cambrian & Clydach Ladies FC.

Dinas Powys ladies celebrate their tournament win.

In a very tight affair neither team didn't give much away. Vicky Ellison and Emma Cordy kept a tight ship as Dinas went for a win in open play. It wasn't to be so it came down to penaltiess.

With Harold saving two penalties, captain Emma Thompson converted Dinas' third to sent them into the final.

Dinas had adopted a change of formation in the tournament, playing without a striker which certainly confused teams as their counterattacking in numbers had teams running everywhere.

They kept this tactic for the final match, a much harder game against Cyncoed, who have been league champions and were full of experience.

In a nailbiting game Dinas threw bodies into challenges, used any part of their body to block shots and tried to counter. The result after normal time and extra time was 0-0 so it came down to penalties again. This time, after being level through seven penalties, it was down to the keepers. Rachel Harold converted hers after saving the Cyncoed keepers to send the Dinas fans and players in to a frenzy.

Any ladies past and present wishing to join please phone 07766 802528; training is Wednesday at Dinas Powys. **LS**

Finals day excitement for Barry chess team

AT the Welsh Knock Out Cup finals day, it was a rare event for our U1500 team to be playing in the main event rather than the Plate tournament.

There were some notable performances from our team as we took on Morriston. For both Windsor and myself we both recorded wins for the first time in a number of years in this tournament.

For Martin Ricketts it was the first time for him to play on finals day, although I am not sure if that is because he was not selected in previous years or if his busy schedule meant he was usually unavailable.

As anticipated the first win went to Chris Green. His opponent had a good opening and was a pawn up. He tried a sacrifice that eventually led to his downfall; I believe Chris has won all of his cup games for us over the past three years!

In the U1800 section, old boy Marc Cooke represented Abergavenny as they also took on Morriston. His three teammates all managed to draw so the match result would be decided by Marc's game against Albert Easton. I am pleased to report that Marc duly earned the win to give the trophy to Abergavenny.

Sam Jukes, another old boy, represented Pontypridd in the U1800 Plate. With time running out and the presentation of trophies looming, Sam was able to earn a draw. This left the match all square at 2-2 but the spoils went to Malpas on bottom board elimination.

As far as I am aware, there are no specific competitions being organised at the club during the summer. However each week we will organise something on an ad hoc basis depending on numbers.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Dinas Powys Golf Club ladies section results

RESULTS from Dinas Powys Golf Club ladies section are as follows:

On June 3, the Golf Foundation Brooch Medal: First, Ann Mahenthiralingam 82-12 = 70 nett; second, Angela Brown 92 -19= 73 nett; third, Carolyn Jones 90-13 = 77 nett. Nine-hole Stableford, first, June Jones on count back from Terry Unwin.

On June 8, Medal 6: First, Lisa Ryley 101-8 =83 nett.

On June 10, ladies day medal: First, Lisa Ryley 91-18 = 73 nett; second, Annie Blackman 100-26 = 74; third, Sue Thomas 97-22 = 75. Nine-hole Stableford, first, Terry Unwin.

On June 16, Woodland Bowl Day 1 Par Comp: First, Sue Thomas +7; second, Ruth Yates -1; third, Lisa Ryley -1.

On June 17, Woodland Bowl Day 2 Par comp: First, Annie Blackburn +4; second, Ann Mahenthiralingam +3; third, Lisa Ryley -1. Overall result: first, Annie Blackburn +2; second, Ann Mahenthiralingam +1; third, Sue Thomas +1. Nine-hole Stableford, first, Terry Unwin.

On June 24, Medal 7: First, Ruth Yates 94-23 =71; on countback from second Angela Brown 91-20 = 71; third, Lisa Ryley 92-18 =74. Nine-hole Stableford, June Jones.

RY

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